

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1994

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 1994. While I strongly support our American veterans, I am concerned about permanent changes to hard-won labor agreements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2578, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2578.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I am very pleased to present to the House the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with my colleague, Mr. CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania.

I would like to begin by thanking my ranking member CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania. It has been a pleasure to work with him. We have worked together closely on this legislation. I appreciate Mr. FATTAH's approach to the bill. His input has improved the bill

considerably. I look forward to working with him and all the members of the subcommittee as we move forward and go into conference with the Senate on this important legislation. I also want to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS of Kentucky and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY of New York for their help in putting this legislation together.

This is my first year chairing the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. It is an extraordinarily important committee that oversees so many noble and worthwhile efforts that the Federal Government is engaged, both in preserving and protecting lives and property of the American people and advancing scientific research and space exploration.

I am especially grateful to Chairman HAL ROGERS for his trust in me in this extraordinarily important assignment. I want to thank him also for his generous allocation to this subcommittee. As the Congress under the Republican leadership has done our very best to live within our means, as every American must do, every business and every private citizen knows how important it is to only spend the money that you have on hand. Don't spend more than you have got. We have in this Republican Congress done our very best through the appropriations process to live within our means.

Our subcommittee has—with that in mind, I am a personal follower of Dave Ramsey's advice. I do so in my personal life and try to do so in representing the people of west Houston—don't spend more money than you have got, and the money you have got you want to prioritize—and we have in this subcommittee prioritized the many agencies that we have responsibility for. In priority order, we have approached it with law enforcement number one and made sure that the FBI has got the resources they need to do their job of protecting this Nation against terrorists and espionage, cyber espionage. They are a growing problem that we see in so many ways. The enemies of the United States have figured out how to hardwire Trojan horses and back doors into telecommunications equipment. The FBI has just done a spectacular job of protecting this Nation in the area of cyber espionage and terrorism, and we have made the FBI a top priority in this legislation and made sure that they have got all the money that they need to do their job.

We have also prioritized the work the Department of Justice is doing in enforcing our laws. We have made sure that scientific research, space exploration are prioritized, and America will preserve its leadership in the world in space exploration.

We have made sure that weather forecasting is funded and taken care of. Managing the Nation's fisheries is extraordinarily important.

As you work down that list of priorities, we have made sure those at the top of the list are fully funded and

those that tend to fall towards the bottom—we have just simply had to drop some programs that are no longer authorized, the length of time for which Congress approved them is expired, or they weren't fulfilling the function for which they were originally intended.

But we in the bill before us today, Mr. Chairman, have provided \$51.4 billion in funding for this year, which is a \$1.3 billion increase over last year but \$661 million below the President's request. The President's budget assumed a number of tax increases and fee increases that are simply not going to happen. We, again, wanted to live within our means and do our very best to minimize the debt that we are passing on to our children and grandchildren, so we have done our best in this environment to fund the priority programs while reducing funding for activities that are not essential to the operations of the Federal Government.

Once we have taken care of the FBI and made sure they have got the funding they need to protect this Nation in an era of evolving threats, we have also included funding, Mr. Chairman, for 55 new immigration judges. Our committee has jurisdiction over these executive branch judges who handle immigration cases. Because of the tremendous backlog of immigration cases, we have added 55 new immigration judges to reduce that backlog and made sure at the same time that we are providing for fully funding the U.S. Attorney's Offices, the Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the ATF—Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—and our prison system.

Now, for State and local law enforcement, Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee has increased funding for priority programs such as the Byrne Formula Program and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding, which compensate State and local taxpayers for the cost of housing people who are in the country illegally and have committed criminal acts in violation of State law and are housed in State prison facilities—that is the responsibility of the Federal Government—and we have funded that program to the highest extent that we can.

We have also funded youth mentoring programs, which have done such great work. We have created, in addition, Mr. Chairman, in this bill a \$53 million community trust program that will fund police body cameras, body camera demonstration programs, and justice reinvestment initiatives.

I want to say a special thanks to our Texas State Senator Royce West, who just concluded the Texas legislative session. Texas became the first State in the Union to pass legislation controlling when, where, and how body camera data can be provided to law enforcement or in a criminal trial to make sure to protect the privacy rights of individuals. We respect that. In our legislation we make sure that State law controls when, where, and how police body camera data will be used.

We have also made sure, Mr. Chairman, that NASA is fully funded in this legislation. We have provided an \$18.5 billion funding level this year for NASA, which is a \$519 million increase and is equal to the request we received from the President.

We have made sure to preserve America's leadership role in manned space exploration, planetary science, and made sure that we are also continuing to advance aeronautics research that NASA does such an extraordinarily important job in.

We have funded the continued development of the Orion crew vehicle at the level asked for by the White House and increased our resources for the Space Launch System to speed up when we will use that important launch system to get Americans back into orbit.

We have made sure that the National Science Foundation is fully funded. We increased the funding level for the National Science Foundation by \$50 million above the historically high level they had in last year's bill.

We also included full funding for the very important BRAIN Initiative, which Ranking Member FATTAH has championed over the years, which promises to unlock the secrets of the single most important organ in the human body and promises great things for the future.

Mr. Chairman, we have also funded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, prioritizing weather forecasting and fisheries management in particular.

We made sure the Joint Polar Satellite System is funded, as well as the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite series.

We have, though, in order to live within our allocation, had to reduce funding in some other areas, eliminating those that no longer were necessary, those whose authorizations had expired, and, in fact, cut funding for more than a dozen bureaus and agencies that can operate with a little less.

Let me also point out in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that we have in this legislation extraordinarily important oversight language that requires each agency under our jurisdiction to submit a spending plan to the subcommittee. We have capped the life cycle costs for poorly performing programs. And we have also withheld some funding for the Department of Justice until the new Attorney General can demonstrate to us that the inspector general's recommendations regarding sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct are being implemented. I cannot stress that highly enough. When I met with the new Attorney General, that was one of the first things I brought to her attention.

We have also required, Mr. Chairman, that agencies that purchase very sensitive information technology or telecommunication systems conduct a supply chain risk assessment in consultation with the FBI to be sure that there are no hardwired Trojan horses or back doors in that communications equipment or computer equipment being purchased by the Federal Government in those agencies under our jurisdiction.

We are also requiring quarterly reporting on immigration judge performance and requiring agencies to provide inspectors general with timely information.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that our legislation today continues Second Amendment protections that have been built into the bill before. We have withheld funding, for example, to make sure that the United Nation's arms control treaty there has been some discussion about is not funded.

We have also prohibited the transfer or housing of GTMO prisoners into the United States.

But above all, the bottom line on this legislation is we want to ensure that the law as enacted by Congress is enforced. If an agency wants to have access to our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars, Mr. Chairman, they are going to need to demonstrate that they are enforcing the law as written by Congress, not based on some memorandum or some internal document. The law as written by Congress is fundamental to our entire system of government. Our liberty lies in the enforcement of law. It is the most fundamental principle of a republic. This great Nation was founded on that principle that no one is above the law and the law shall be enforced equally and fairly to everybody with due process.

Through our work on this subcommittee with the checks and balances that we have built into this legislation, the agencies under our jurisdiction are going to need to demonstrate that they are enforcing the law as written by Congress in order to entitle them to access to our taxpayers' very precious and hard-earned tax dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2578)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration.....	472,000	506,750	472,000	---	-34,750
Offsetting fee collections.....	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000	---	---
Direct appropriation.....	462,000	496,750	462,000	---	-34,750
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration.....	66,500	79,086	74,000	+7,500	-5,086
Defense function.....	36,000	36,000	36,000	---	---
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security.....	102,500	115,086	110,000	+7,500	-5,086
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs.....	213,000	227,500	213,000	---	-14,500
Salaries and expenses.....	37,000	45,528	37,000	---	-8,528
Total, Economic Development Administration.....	250,000	273,028	250,000	---	-23,028
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development.....	30,000	30,016	32,000	+2,000	+1,984
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses.....	100,000	113,849	100,000	---	-13,849
Bureau of the Census					
Salaries and expenses.....	248,000	---	---	-248,000	---
Current Surveys and Programs.....	---	277,873	265,000	+265,000	-12,873
Periodic censuses and programs (old structure).....	840,000	---	---	-840,000	---
Periodic censuses and programs (new structure).....	---	1,222,101	848,000	+848,000	-374,101
Total, Bureau of the Census.....	1,088,000	1,499,974	1,113,000	+25,000	-386,974
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	38,200	49,232	35,200	-3,000	-14,032
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding.....	3,458,000	3,272,000	3,272,000	-186,000	---
Offsetting fee collections.....	-3,458,000	-3,272,000	-3,272,000	+186,000	---
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office	---	---	---	---	---
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services.....	675,500	754,661	675,000	-500	-79,661
(transfer out).....	(-2,000)	(-2,000)	(-2,000)	---	---
Industrial Technology Services.....	138,100	306,000	130,000	-8,100	-176,000
Manufacturing extension partnerships.....	(130,000)	(141,000)	(130,000)	---	(-11,000)
Advanced manufacturing technology consortia.....	(8,100)	(15,000)	---	(-8,100)	(-15,000)
Manufacturing innovation institutes coordination..	---	(150,000)	---	---	(-150,000)
Construction of research facilities.....	50,300	59,000	50,000	-300	-9,000
Working Capital Fund (by transfer).....	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---	---
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology.....	863,900	1,119,661	855,000	-8,900	-264,661

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2578)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities.....	3,202,398	3,413,360	3,147,877	-54,521	-265,483
(by transfer).....	(116,000)	(130,164)	(130,164)	(+14,164)	---
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out).....	(-116,000)	(-130,164)	(-130,164)	(-14,164)	---
Subtotal.....	3,202,398	3,413,360	3,147,877	-54,521	-265,483
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction.....	2,179,225	2,498,679	1,960,034	-219,191	-538,645
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery.....	65,000	58,000	65,000	---	+7,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund.....	350	350	350	---	---
Fisheries Finance Program Account.....	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	---	---
Pacific groundfish fishing capacity reduction loan....	---	10,300	---	---	-10,300
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.....	5,440,973	5,974,689	5,167,261	-273,712	-807,428
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses.....	56,000	71,095	50,000	-6,000	-21,095
Renovation and Modernization.....	4,500	24,062	3,989	-511	-20,073
Office of Inspector General.....	30,596	35,190	32,000	+1,404	-3,190
Total, Departmental Management.....	91,096	130,347	85,989	-5,107	-44,358
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Total, title I, Department of Commerce.....	8,466,669	9,802,632	8,210,450	-256,219	-1,592,182
(by transfer).....	118,000	132,164	132,164	+14,164	---
(transfer out).....	-118,000	-132,164	-132,164	-14,164	---
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TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	111,500	119,437	105,000	-6,500	-14,437
Justice Information Sharing Technology.....	25,842	37,440	25,842	---	-11,598
Total, General Administration.....	137,342	156,877	130,842	-6,500	-26,035
Administrative review and appeals.....	351,072	488,381	426,791	+75,719	-61,590
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Direct appropriation.....	347,072	484,381	422,791	+75,719	-61,590
Office of Inspector General.....	88,577	93,709	92,000	+3,423	-1,709
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	13,308	13,547	13,308	---	-239
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities.....	885,000	1,037,386	885,000	---	-152,386
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.....	7,833	9,358	8,000	+167	-1,358
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division.....	162,246	164,977	162,246	---	-2,731
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-100,000	-124,000	-124,000	-24,000	---
Direct appropriation.....	62,246	40,977	38,246	-24,000	-2,731
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys.....	1,960,000	2,032,216	1,995,000	+35,000	-37,216
United States Trustee System Fund.....	225,908	228,107	225,908	---	-2,199
Offsetting fee collections.....	-225,908	-162,000	-162,000	+63,908	---
Direct appropriation.....	---	66,107	63,908	+63,908	-2,199

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2578)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Salaries and expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement					
Commission.....	2,326	2,374	2,326	---	-48
Fees and expenses of witnesses.....	270,000	270,000	270,000	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service....	12,250	14,446	13,000	+750	-1,446
Assets Forfeiture Fund.....	20,514	20,514	---	-20,514	-20,514
Total, Legal Activities.....	3,220,169	3,493,378	3,275,480	+55,311	-217,898
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,195,000	1,230,581	1,220,000	+25,000	-10,581
Construction.....	9,800	15,000	11,000	+1,200	-4,000
Federal Prisoner Detention.....	495,307	1,454,414	1,058,081	+562,774	-396,333
Total, United States Marshals Service.....	1,700,107	2,699,995	2,289,081	+588,974	-410,914
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses.....	93,000	96,596	95,000	+2,000	-1,596
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement.....	507,194	519,301	510,000	+2,806	-9,301
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,378,089	3,413,813	3,444,306	+66,217	+30,493
Counterintelligence and national security.....	4,948,480	5,000,812	5,045,480	+97,000	+44,668
Subtotal.....	8,326,569	8,414,625	8,489,786	+163,217	+75,161
Construction.....	110,000	68,982	57,982	-52,018	-11,000
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	8,436,569	8,483,607	8,547,768	+111,199	+64,161
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	2,400,000	2,463,123	2,445,459	+45,459	-17,664
Diversion control fund.....	-366,680	-371,514	-371,514	-4,834	---
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration.....	2,033,320	2,091,609	2,073,945	+40,625	-17,664
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,201,000	1,261,158	1,250,000	+49,000	-11,158
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses.....	6,815,000	7,204,158	6,951,500	+136,500	-252,658
Buildings and facilities.....	106,000	140,564	230,000	+124,000	+89,436
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	---	---
Total, Federal Prison System.....	6,923,700	7,347,422	7,184,200	+260,500	-163,222
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs.....	430,000	473,500	479,000	+49,000	+5,500
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics.....	111,000	151,900	---	-111,000	-151,900
State and local law enforcement assistance.....	1,241,000	1,142,300	1,015,400	-225,600	-126,900
Juvenile justice programs.....	251,500	339,400	183,500	-68,000	-155,900

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2578)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
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Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits.....	71,000	72,000	72,000	+1,000	---
Disability and education benefits.....	16,300	16,300	16,300	---	---
Subtotal.....	87,300	88,300	88,300	+1,000	---
Total, Office of Justice Programs.....	1,690,800	1,721,900	1,287,200	-403,600	-434,700
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs.....	208,000	303,500	237,500	+29,500	-66,000
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities.....	2,328,800	2,498,900	2,003,700	-325,100	-495,200
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Total, title II, Department of Justice.....	27,030,158	29,240,480	27,888,115	+857,957	-1,352,365
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TITLE III - SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy.....	5,555	5,566	5,555	---	-11
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science.....	5,244,700	5,288,600	5,237,500	-7,200	-51,100
Aeronautics.....	651,000	571,400	600,000	-51,000	+28,600
Space Technology.....	596,000	724,800	625,000	+29,000	-99,800
Exploration.....	4,356,700	4,505,900	4,759,300	+402,600	+253,400
Space Operations.....	3,827,800	4,003,700	3,957,300	+129,500	-46,400
Education.....	119,000	88,900	119,000	---	+30,100
Safety, Security and Mission Services.....	2,758,900	2,843,100	2,768,600	+9,700	-74,500
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration.....	419,100	465,300	425,000	+5,900	-40,300
Office of Inspector General.....	37,000	37,400	37,400	+400	---
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.....	18,010,200	18,529,100	18,529,100	+518,900	---
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities.....	5,866,125	6,118,780	5,916,125	+50,000	-202,655
Defense function.....	67,520	67,520	67,520	---	---
Subtotal.....	5,933,645	6,186,300	5,983,645	+50,000	-202,655
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction..	200,760	200,310	200,030	-730	-280
Education and Human Resources.....	866,000	962,570	866,000	---	-96,570
Agency Operations and Award Management.....	325,000	354,840	325,000	---	-29,840
Office of the National Science Board.....	4,370	4,370	4,370	---	---
Office of Inspector General.....	14,430	15,160	15,160	+730	---
Total, National Science Foundation.....	7,344,205	7,723,550	7,394,205	+50,000	-329,345
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Total, title III, Science.....	25,359,960	26,258,216	25,928,860	+568,900	-329,356
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TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses.....	9,200	9,413	9,200	---	-213
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	364,500	373,112	364,500	---	-8,612

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2578)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	84,500	131,500	84,500	---	-47,000
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation.....	375,000	452,000	300,000	-75,000	-152,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,340	3,431	3,340	---	-91
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses.....	54,250	56,268	54,250	---	-2,018
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses.....	5,121	5,121	5,121	---	---
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Total, title IV, Related Agencies.....	895,911	1,030,845	820,911	-75,000	-209,934
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TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
DOC Departmental Management, Franchise Fund (rescission).....	-2,906	---	---	+2,906	---
DOC, National Technical Information Service (rescission).....	---	---	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000
DOC, Economic Development Assistance Programs (rescission).....	-5,000	---	---	+5,000	---
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission).....	-99,000	-55,000	-100,000	-1,000	-45,000
DOJ, Tactical Law Enforcement Wireless Communications (rescission).....	-2,000	---	---	+2,000	---
DOJ, Detention Trustee (rescission).....	-23,000	---	---	+23,000	---
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission).....	-193,000	-304,000	---	+193,000	+304,000
FBI, Salaries and Expenses, nondefense (rescission)...	---	-49,000	-49,000	-49,000	---
FBI, Salaries and Expenses, defense (rescission).....	---	-71,000	-71,000	-71,000	---
DOJ, Salaries and expenses, general legal activities (rescission).....	-10,000	---	---	+10,000	---
DOJ, Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division (rescission).....	-6,000	---	---	+6,000	---
DOJ, Salaries and expenses, U.S. Attorneys (rescission).....	-9,000	---	---	+9,000	---
Federal Prisoner Detention (rescission).....	-188,000	-69,500	-69,500	+118,500	---
DOJ, ATF, Salaries and expenses (rescission).....	-3,200	---	---	+3,200	---
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs (rescission).....	-16,000	-5,020	-15,000	+1,000	-9,980
Office of Justice programs (rescission).....	-82,500	---	-40,000	+42,500	-40,000
COPS (rescission).....	-40,000	-10,000	-20,000	+20,000	-10,000
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Total, title V, General Provisions.....	-679,606	-563,520	-374,500	+305,106	+189,020
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Grand total.....	61,073,092	65,768,653	62,473,836	+1,400,744	-3,294,817
Appropriations.....	(61,752,698)	(66,332,173)	(62,848,336)	(+1,095,638)	(-3,483,837)
Rescissions.....	(-679,606)	(-563,520)	(-374,500)	(+305,106)	(+189,020)
(by transfer).....	118,000	132,164	132,164	+14,164	---
(transfer out).....	-118,000	-132,164	-132,164	-14,164	---

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Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first, since this is my first appearance on the floor since the tragic news of the Vice President's son's death, offer my condolences. I am sure all of my colleagues and the people of Philadelphia consider the Biden family one of our own since they are nearby neighbors.

I also want to offer my sincere condolences and concern for the people of Texas, given the tragedy of the deaths and the severe weather incidents there that have occasioned the flooding.

We rise today in moving an appropriations bill, the Commerce, Justice, Science bill. The chairman and the ranking member from New York have assisted the subcommittee in its work. I want to thank the subcommittee chairman for all of the cooperation that has been extended.

He has pointed to a number of the circumstances in which he has helped make sure that priorities that we were interested in were accommodated in the bill, and I want to talk a little bit about that.

One is in the area of brain science, neuroscience. The BRAIN Initiative is critically important. We have some 50 million Americans suffering from brain-related diseases or disorders. Fifty million in a country of a little over 300 million is a very significant number.

The diseases themselves, everything from Alzheimer's to epilepsy, autism, brain cancer—in the case of the Vice President's son—a whole host of challenges that cost our country in not just financial ways, but affect so many families.

I want to thank the chairman for his continued cooperation and work with me on what I think is the most important area of scientific discovery that we need to be focused on as a nation.

Also, in the area of youth mentoring, the work in terms of supporting our efforts to make sure that millions of the Nation's young people have the appropriate guidance that they need, such as the great congressionally chartered organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of America; the YMCA; and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, which is celebrating their 100th anniversary this month. I want to thank him for that.

I could go on through a laundry list of areas, manufacturing and the like, in which we have worked very closely together; and there is nothing that could be improved upon in terms of the process between the interactions between the majority and the minority on this bill.

There is an elephant in the room, no pun intended, in the sense that the majority has an absolute view about the budget allocations, given the Budget Control Act, and see that as something that limits our ability to meet the challenges of our great Nation.

The minority has the view that we need to move away from that budget

control agreement and move away from these automatic caps and meet the needs, as the Constitution indicated that the Appropriations Committee's job was, to meet the needs of our great Nation. We know that there are needs that are not going to be met.

The chairman just talked about how important our system of laws were. Well, in this bill, we fall short, at least at this moment, of what we need to fully do to fund the Legal Services Corporation, which was established under a Republican administration; but it provides services, not to Democrats or Republicans, but to Americans all across our country, to provide access to the courts and to make sure that they can have due process in civil litigations. We know that we are short there.

We have a constitutional responsibility to fund the Census. We are going to, at this moment, fall shy of that.

Now, we hope that we will improve this bill. We can't improve the process, but we can improve the product as we go toward a conference with the Senate.

There are areas related to NASA, even though we funded above \$18 billion, which is a historic commitment to NASA, that we still are not dealing with the pressing issues of fully funding Commercial Crew which requires—we have now paid out \$500 million to our Russian counterparts to transport astronauts to the International Space Station, and we are going to have to continue that longer than we need to because we are not able, under the allocation, to meet our responsibilities and the needs on the Commercial Crew appropriations.

Now, Galileo, 400 years ago, pointed us toward Europa. I agree with the chairman that the need to fully explore and to bring back a sample and to do everything else necessary to fully understand what the potential may be is an important effort, but also funding space technology and our Commercial Crew Program—and I know the chairman agrees with me—are going to be important efforts for us to try to improve in this bill as we go towards conference with the Senate.

The minority can't shirk its responsibility to point out these shortcomings. Having pointed them out, I do want to make the point, though, that the working relationship is one that I think appropriately reflects the kind of process we want to have in the House. We want all views to be considered, and I know that every offering of a view from the minority has been fully considered by the chairman.

I thank him, and I want to thank his staff, and I want to thank my staff of the committee because they have worked very hard for us to come to this moment.

We are at a point in the process in which the majority will have its way. There eventually will be a Senate bill, but we also have to weigh in the administration's viewpoint in order to have a law of the land.

The administration has issued a statement on this bill, and in appropriate ways, it compliments the subcommittee for its foresight on a range of points, but it also strongly recommends changes in directions in appropriations in a variety of areas that the administration thinks would hold our country back.

I think that there is a lot to be said about fiscal prudence. We need to make sure that we are operating in a fiscally responsible way.

This Nation at its founding, at the point in which we had to separate ourselves from the British, we borrowed a few dollars. It costs us something at almost every point in the history of our country, as in the case for most families and most businesses, in which you have to make investments and which sometimes those investments cause you to have an imbalance for a moment or for a period of time.

There is a reason why we have mortgages, so that people can buy homes, and we invest in student loans so that young people can get an education. There is a need for our country, from time to time, to look beyond the immediate balance of the books to understand what our calling is.

We say, sometimes, that we are an exceptional nation. Exceptionalism requires us to have some foresight. We know that this is an age of innovation and scientific discovery. Some have suggested that there is nothing new under the Sun, but we know that that is not so.

Just in recent months, we found the largest volcano on Earth—just discovered. We found in drought-stricken parts of Africa, deep down underneath the earth, some of the largest aquifers of water. We have now discovered a warmblooded fish for the first time ever and a new species of bird in China. This is not an age in which discovery is not possible.

This is a time for our country where we should be investing in science and innovation. We have a need to as a country, as I mentioned, of just some 300-million plus, when we compete against billion-plus populated countries like China and India, we can't afford to leave any of our young people in the shadows. We can't afford to not invest in science and innovation.

I want to thank the chairman for what he has done. I want to tell him that we will continue to work with him as we go forward because I believe what we have here today is not a perfect bill, but the foundation for what will be, I think, the best Commerce, Justice, Science bill that could be produced.

It is a beginning of that process, and I want to thank him. I look forward to the debate in the amendment process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank Chairman CULBERSON for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to announce my support of this bill. It contains \$51.4 billion for effective, proven programs within the Departments of Justice and Commerce, as well as NASA and the National Science Foundation. Within that total, funding is targeted at programs that are vital to our economic development, our public safety, and national security.

These important programs, overall, receive a boost of \$1.3 billion over last year, allowing us to make critical investments in law enforcement, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and science and research activities.

For example, the legislation increases funding for the Department of Justice by \$852 million above last year's levels, enhancing the way we protect and secure communities across the Nation. That increase will provide the FBI with greater resources to fight terrorism and cyber crime.

It will also allow the DEA to amplify activities, including \$372 million to combat prescription drug abuse, what the CDC calls a national epidemic that is taking more lives than car wrecks.

Funding is targeted to high-priority national grants with increases for violence against women programs and the Byrne JAG Program.

The bill also creates a new community trust initiative that will help improve the safety of communities across the Nation and work to facilitate a supportive relationship between these local communities and the police. This includes funding for body camera pilots and research, training, justice reform efforts, and upgraded statistics collection.

Mr. Chairman, the bill also directs funding toward key programs that will help secure America's role as the leader in scientific innovation, grow our economy, and promote job creation. For instance, NASA receives a \$519 million increase above last year, keeping us on the forefront of the space frontier.

The National Science Foundation receives a \$50 million increase, directing funds to programs that will spur U.S. economic competitiveness. To help protect communities from devastating natural disasters, we provided \$5.2 billion for NOAA to help boost weather warning and forecasting efforts.

As with any appropriations bill, Mr. Chairman, the committee had to make some tough choices to live within a tight budget allocation, but that is what the Appropriations Committee does. We make hard decisions.

I believe that this bill does that in a very responsible way, eliminating unnecessary or unneeded programs, reducing funding for other lower-priority programs. This sort of smart budgeting will help improve the way our government operates and show that we can live within our means.

Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate Chairman CULBERSON for his successful first go as chairman of this subcommittee. He wanted this tour and is

happy to have it and is doing a good job with it, Mr. Chairman, and I am proud of him.

I think he and Ranking Member FATTAH and their subcommittee have drafted a good bill that I am proud to have before the House today. As always, I want to thank the staff for their tireless work in drafting and bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth appropriations bill we have brought to the floor this year, and I am glad we are progressing at a great pace on these very important bills.

I am told that this is the earliest and quickest start to appropriations bills in recorded history. I am proud of the work that our committee is doing and, I think, doing good work.

□ 1430

So I urge my colleagues to continue this forward momentum and vote in favor of this very important and very well done Commerce, Justice, Science funding bill.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member and a great leader for our team on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Chairman CULBERSON on his first Commerce, Justice, and Science bill, as well as Ranking Member FATTAH and full committee Chairman ROGERS for their efforts. I know how hard they worked to try and put together the best bill possible.

Before I go further, I want to thank my friend, Ranking Member FATTAH, and join him in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the Vice President on the loss of his son. I just can't imagine the pain that one feels at such a tragedy. I know our hearts and prayers go out to the Biden family.

The pictures of the floods in Texas were so horrifying, and I know how hard everyone was working to minimize the loss of life. I also want to express my condolences to Chairman CULBERSON as well.

The House Republican "work harder for less" budget resolution was opposed by every Member on my side of the aisle in part because it really makes it impossible to give hard-working Americans the opportunity to succeed. Democrats want to end the sequester, and we need more reasonable and realistic budgeting that could help families afford college, a home, and a secure retirement.

The insufficient overall allocation for discretionary investment hurts initiatives in all the appropriation bills that grow the economy, create jobs, and make us more secure. While I appreciate the chairman's efforts, the grossly inadequate allocation creates shortcomings that are evident in the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science bill.

Instead of providing the desperately needed investments in community po-

licing and improving the juvenile justice system, the COPS hiring program would receive no funding, and the Office of Juvenile Justice would receive \$68 million less than fiscal year 2015 and \$156 million less than the President's request. These failures are particularly shameful, given the inclusion of a number of gun riders, including language blocking a reporting requirement on multiple purchases of rifles or shotguns by individual buyers. We must eliminate riders such as these that prevent law enforcement from sensibly addressing gun crimes.

While Violence Against Women prevention and prosecution programs would appear to receive an increase above both fiscal year 2015 and the President's fiscal year 2016 request, it is actually below the request when you account for a transfer in Victims of Trafficking grants. Similar gimmicks are also included in the portion of the COPS program that would be funded.

The Legal Services Corporation would fare far worse: \$75 million below fiscal year 2015, \$152 million below the request. This is unacceptable for a vital service that provides legal help for hard-working Americans.

Turning to science, the bill continues the majority's practice of burying its head in the sand instead of focusing on the stark climate change realities. As in previous years, the bill severely cuts funding for NOAA climate research by 19 percent below fiscal year 2015, a \$30 million decrease. We should be supporting, not hindering, this important work to help save our environment.

The bill also cuts Geosciences and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences of the National Science Foundation by \$257 million below the fiscal year 2015 level, an approach universally opposed by the scientific community.

Rather than properly preparing for the constitutionally mandated 2020 Census, the mark is \$387 million below the President's request for the U.S. Census Bureau. Failure to provide these funds now will only cost taxpayers more in the long run, as the Census Bureau would be unable to thoroughly develop and test innovative, cost-saving business practices. Developing a well-designed and thoughtful Census now could save up to \$5 billion in 2020 Census costs.

As in other bills, the majority has included a number of controversial riders. In addition to those on firearms I already mentioned, another provision is aimed at placing restrictions on exports to Cuba.

However, despite the numerous shortcomings, I want to thank the chairman again for his work related to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and the community Backlog Reduction Program to process sexual assault kits. These evidentiary kits have historically gone untested for decades, giving violent and culpable offenders the ability to strike again. So it is important we fund this program at a workable level.

I want to make it clear that Democrats are more than willing to support bills that include adequate spending levels to ensure public safety, promote economic growth, and that exclude unnecessary riders. Unfortunately, although this bill does such wonderful things, and I am a great supporter once again of all the brain research, the important investments that are being made to address Alzheimer's, autism, and other serious, serious diseases of the brain, the bill does not make appropriate investments that hard-working Americans need but, instead, advances misguided policy changes. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Thank you again to our chair and ranking members.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), my colleague on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the chairman for a bill that invests responsibly in law enforcement, space science research, ocean and marine resources, and weather sciences. I also want to thank the chairman for his support of an innovative data collection initiative in this bill to improve fish stock assessments and research of the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

As we discussed in many of our hearings, we as a nation need to utilize all tools and technology and work with all fisheries sector participants, including recreational, for-hire, and commercial, that provide the most accurate assessment of the health of our fish stocks, including the red snapper species so critical to our quality of life in Gulf States like Florida and Texas as well as our regional economies. This innovative data collection initiative will better enable the National Marine Fisheries Service and the regional council to make more informed decisions about the length of various fishing seasons.

Mr. Chairman, without constantly improving and accurate and quantifiable data, data that is believed to reliably reflect the fisherman's experience on the water, our commercial and recreational fishermen, alike, find it difficult to understand decisions by government to shorten fishing seasons and limit catches.

To be clear, this new provision included in this year's CJS bill is intended to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office new tools to utilize data collection efforts from our recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen, from State and local officials, from third-party researchers, and from academia. Data collection and research focus on the unique stock assessment challenges of Gulf fisheries. By working with our recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen, and by engaging them directly in data collection, NMFS Southeast Regional Office will ultimately collect more and better data and will

begin to restore trust between the sectors and regulators.

This public-private effort will allow officials tasked with managing our fishery resources to strike the right balance: balance for our recreational fishing communities' quality of life and right to fish on our waters, balance for our regional economy fueled by the commercial and for-hire fishing industry, and balance for our strong interests in stock rehabilitation, species preservation, and protecting our critical natural resources.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you as we continue to work through this appropriations process on this important provision, as well as working with NOAA and the NMFS Southeast Regional Office, during implementation of this funding to stand up to this critical innovative stock assessment initiative and make it a success for Florida and for all five of our Gulf States, including your home State of Texas.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The chairman and the staff have done a remarkable job working on a whole range of issues related to fish, not just in the Gulf of Mexico and Texas, but throughout the questions around salmon in Washington State and the issues related to even our part of the country where we fish a little bit. So I want to thank the gentleman for his comments.

I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of California (Mr. HONDA), my colleague on the subcommittee, who has really helped us on the subcommittee, particularly around areas related to innovation and science and advanced manufacturing.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Let me start by thanking Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member FATTAH for their ongoing enthusiasm and support for many of the key programs funded by this bill. I am grateful for their support, including provisions addressing key concerns of mine such as the growing rape kit backlog and long delays in testing DNA evidence; preventing the politically motivated termination evaluation of a fundamental science observatory, SOFIA; and ensuring the Federal Marine Debris program, which will focus on plastics in our Nation's waterways and oceans. Despite the inclusion of these and other beneficial programs, this bill unfortunately falls short of supporting a robust and effective portfolio of Commerce, Justice, and Science programs.

This bill was crafted under the restrictive spending cap imposed by sequestration. This unworkable funding cap has forced unacceptable cuts that greatly weaken key programs serving our country. For example, at a time when the funding for the constitutionally mandated decennial Census should be on a significant ramp-up, this bill underfunds the Census Bureau by \$387 million.

At the direction of Congress, the Census Bureau is testing sweeping reforms to Census methods that would reduce the overall cost of the enumeration substantially by bringing the Census into the 21st century. But without sufficient money next year, the Census Bureau may have to abandon plans for a modern Census and go back to the more costly, outdated, manual 2010 design, which will end up costing \$5 billion more—\$5 billion. We cannot afford to waste \$5 billion. We need to be fiscally responsible and have an understanding of cuts beyond the time scale of a 1-year funding bill, which means investing in the Census now.

Additionally, this bill severely underfunds and deprioritizes earth science. The bill proposes generous funding to support NASA for planetary science but seems to overlook the most important planet of all—our own. That is why I offered an amendment in committee to fully fund the earth and geoscience research at NASA and NSF instead of the \$520 million underfunding being proposed.

Research in the earth and helio sciences helps protect lives, business, and infrastructure because economic and public welfare consequences of natural hazards such as droughts, hurricanes, space weather, and earthquakes can be devastating. As our climate continues to change, this research is even more important, and yet this bill proposes to cut earth and geoscience research. We should be increasing funding in these fields to better understand natural systems and allow for more informed policy decisionmaking and not cutting them.

Additionally, this bill seeks to micromanage the NSF by singling out earth science and social sciences as lesser research priorities. This is a prime example of political meddling into scientific research. The draconian spending caps have forced the cannibalization of these and other essential programs and resulted in a bill that is unworkable.

□ 1445

We need to adopt the President's proposed overall funding levels to ensure that key programs such as the Census and NASA's Earth Science Research Program are able to be effective and serve our Nation.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), my colleague and good friend from the committee.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. I thank the Chairman for his good work.

Mr. Chairman, I have the honor of serving on the Appropriations Committee, which enables me to have input into our spending priorities.

This bill has a number of important programs. I want to highlight drug courts. Drug courts have a proven track record. Drug courts are effective and efficient. Drug courts work.

A respected pastor and community leader in my State said: "Prisons are

for people we are really scared of, not just mad at.”

The drug epidemic continues to ravage my State, and drug courts give a needed alternative to sending those suffering from addiction to jail. Drug courts allow individuals to undergo treatment, get help staying clean, and reenter society as a productive individual.

West Virginia drug courts are succeeding. Earlier this year, West Virginia honored the first 1,000 adults and juveniles to successfully complete the program.

While no single program will solve the drug epidemic, we must continue to support programs that work. This bill maintains critical funding for a number of other programs that will help those trying to end this crisis.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a fellow appropriator.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank our ranking member for yielding but also for his very steady and competent leadership of this subcommittee on our behalf. Also, I want to thank the chairman for his consistent work at bipartisanship, even though this is still yet another funding bill brought to the floor that woefully underfunds our critical Federal programs.

The fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill really should reflect our Nation's commitment to growing our economy, keeping our communities safe, and driving innovation. Instead, it makes critical cuts to programs at a time when they are needed most.

In the Justice title, this bill includes no funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program and a \$68 million cut to juvenile justice programs from fiscal year 2015.

It also includes a \$75 million cut to the Legal Services Corporation, which provides critical legal services to low-income Americans. Given what is happening in communities around the country, especially in terms of communities of color and law enforcement, these are truly unwise and misguided cuts.

Under the Science title, the National Science Foundation, which funds critical research at the University of California at Berkeley in my congressional district, is funded at \$50 million below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. These cuts are a huge blow to investments we should be making in scientific research to keep our Nation competitive.

In the Commerce section, this bill also includes cuts to critical programs, such as a \$274 million cut to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and funds the Census Bureau at \$387 million below the President's budget request.

Add to all of this an inappropriate policy rider about exports to Cuba and you have a bill that, despite the hard work of the chair and our ranking member, is deeply flawed.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE. Finally, let me just say we need to stop starving our critical Federal programs. We need to protect our communities in crisis and drive scientific breakthroughs in the future.

In committee, I sponsored an amendment along with Ranking Member LOWEY to increase COPS Hiring funding and also introduced an amendment to require jurisdictions receiving Byrne-JAG grants to put their officers through training to better work with diverse communities that they protect and serve. Congressman LACY CLAY has championed this idea, and later in this debate we will enter into a colloquy regarding this important issue, and I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their support.

Mr. FATTAH. May I inquire of the time remaining on both sides?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, at this time it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), my good friend.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

I want to thank the chairman and Ranking Member FATTAH for their efforts to forge a truly bipartisan bill to fund critical programs within the Departments of Justice, Commerce, and the scientific community. This diverse bill provides a wide range of support, from continued scientific research in space to the funding our law enforcement officers need to keep our families and communities safe. It is truly a diverse, vital bill.

Chairman CULBERSON, please permit me one point of clarification in the bill. The NASA budget includes a space operations account. This account provides funding for everything from space communications to research on the International Space Station to supporting space launch complexes. I would like to specifically discuss the space communications function within this account.

Regardless of age or mission, NASA must be able to communicate with the system it has in orbit. The space and ground networks that comprise NASA's space communications system are the foundation for all of NASA's orbital work. The network provides constant, real-time communications for all aspects of our space mission, from the unmanned probes at the very edges of our solar system to the ISS and Hubble Space Telescope. Without this capability, our Nation would be jeopardizing the safety of our manned operations and depriving the world of the discoveries made by our space systems.

It should be a commitment of the House to ensure that the funding for our space operations ensures strong support for the infrastructure and support needed to maintain strong and capable space communications.

Again, I thank the committee for its work in crafting this legislation and strongly supporting space communications in the past. It is my understanding that the committee has provided the space operations account with nearly \$130 million more than it did in fiscal year 2015, and that it intends to support a robust level of funding for the space communications component within this account.

Is that understanding correct? I yield to the gentleman.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague from New Mexico. He is absolutely right. We have increased funding for the space operations account by \$129.5 million, and we will make sure that that funding is adequate to support the space communications components with that increase.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), a fellow appropriator.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding, number one. Number two, I want to thank him for the steady leadership he has provided as the ranking member. I also want to thank my good friend from Texas, JOHN CULBERSON. We go back to the State legislature. I thank him for his leadership on this one particular issue that I want to bring up today, and that is the work that we are doing together in adding 55 new immigration judges—the largest amount of immigration judges that we are going to have at one time.

So I want to thank him for working together to add that money, as well as the accountability for those judges. We have got to make sure that we not only have the judges, but we have got to make sure that they move those cases with all due process given to everybody—and to move them as soon as possible. I also thank him for the work that we have done on Stone Garden and other border law enforcement needs.

Why do we need those new judges? Because right now there are more than 450,000 pending cases. There is a large backlog of immigration cases. There are about 250 judges right now, with about 58 courtrooms across the Nation, but we need to do more.

If you look at the casework of an immigration judge, that person will handle about 2,100 cases. If you look at a Federal judge, that judge will handle about 440 cases. You can see the large amount of cases that we have.

So, basically, some of those cases are taking about 2½ years to handle, and therefore we need to make sure that we

have the judges in place to handle the backlog that we have.

Just to give you an example, just in the last 6 months, 170,000 people crossed the border. Therefore, we need those judges.

To conclude, I want to thank the chairman and his staff, as well as the ranking member and his staff.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my good friend.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today deeply concerned by the increase of heroin and opioid abuse in Michigan and around the country.

In Jackson, six heroin-related deaths have happened since March. In April, in Monroe County, three people overdosed in a 24-hour period. Last year, Lenawee County, my home county, had seven drug-related deaths in the first three quarters. Sadly, we hear similar stories in far too many communities across Michigan.

Today's CJS Appropriations bill includes essential funding to assist States and localities to combat drug-related problems, including over \$400 million to advance strategic plans to address the growing heroin and opioid epidemic and \$372 million to tackle prescription drug abuse.

It will take all of us working together—concerned citizens, treatment providers, law enforcement, elected officials at every level—to fight this growing epidemic and keep our homes and streets safe.

I appreciate the work of the chairman of the committee on this, and I support it.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who has led the Democratic effort in terms of science, and I particularly thank her for her leadership on NASA.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me express my appreciation and respect for the chair as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee.

I really do respect the work, but I do rise in opposition to H.R. 2578. It represents a missed opportunity to help the Nation's research and innovation enterprise at a time when that help is urgently needed.

Until the mismatch between the House budget resolution and the needs facing our country is addressed, we are going to continue to fall behind, both in our efforts to maintain our global competitiveness and our efforts to maintain R&D capabilities we need right here at home.

As ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I would like to use some of my time to address some specific concerns that I have with the bill, which I elaborate on in my statement for the RECORD.

In short, the bill's report language would make arbitrary and ideologi-

cally driven cuts to NSF social sciences and geoscience research programs. In addition, the bill's funding would put NSF's new headquarters building at risk, adding cost growth and schedule delays.

With respect to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in addition to the funding cuts, I am particularly concerned about the report language that would gut the critical forensic standards activities already underway at NIST, as well as the bill's language that would covertly, without any hearings, debate, or authorizing legislation, eliminate an entire agency, the National Technical Information Service.

The bill would also make significant cuts to NOAA's budget, including climate research and NOAA's Polar Follow On weather satellite program.

Finally, the bill would make deep cuts to NASA's Earth Science Program, disrupting activities that will help us better understand our home planet and the climate change that is occurring right now.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, as I said before, the bill is a missed opportunity, and I cannot support it in its current form.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2578. While I respect the work put into the bill by my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I am afraid that it represents a missed opportunity to help the nation's research and innovation enterprise at a time when that help is urgently needed.

As other speakers have noted, this bill is the result of a fundamentally flawed House budget resolution that provides insufficient allocations for critically important activities of the federal government, including investing in our future. Until that mismatch is addressed, we are going to continue to fall behind, both in our efforts to maintain our global competitiveness and our efforts to maintain the R&D capabilities we need here at home.

As Ranking Member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I would like to use my remaining time to address some specific concerns I have with the bill.

With respect to the National Science Foundation, I have two specific concerns beyond the overall funding level. Following the direction contained in the report accompanying this bill would result in a 15–20% cut to each of the social sciences and geosciences directorates at NSF. Let me be clear. These are arbitrary and ideologically-driven cuts that reflect a lack of understanding of how science works, and a lack of understanding of the great importance of these fields of research to our national interests. Moreover, with these cuts we stand to lose a generation of talent and expertise in fields essential to the wellbeing of this nation, and we may never recover from that loss.

Second, I must comment on the flat-funding for the NSF operations account. NSF is already in the midst of building a new headquarters in Alexandria, and the funding provided to NSF in this bill may very well result in delays and therefore increased cost for that building. This is a clear-cut case of the Congress being penny-wise and pound foolish.

With respect to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, I am concerned

about the funding cuts to all of the accounts. I am particularly concerned about the report language that would gut the critical forensics standards activities already underway at NIST, and the bill language that would covertly, without any hearings, debate, or authorizing legislation, eliminate an entire agency, the National Technical Information Service. NTIS performs both essential and perhaps nonessential activities. This bill would throw out the baby with the bathwater without any consideration given to the consequences.

The CJS bill we are considering today fails short in a number of ways in its treatment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It cuts the NOAA budget 5 percent below current spending and more than 13 percent below the President's request. This cut will have a significant impact on NOAA's ability to provide local communities and decision-makers with the information they need to effectively manage the nation's resources and protect the lives and property of every American.

I am especially concerned about the lack of support for NOAA's efforts to maintain continuity in our polar observing capabilities. The President's budget request included \$380 million to fund a Polar Follow-on program. This program would help mitigate a potential gap in this critical data by building robustness into our satellite constellation. As many of you know, accurate weather forecasts and warnings are vital for the economic security of the United States, and we must ensure NOAA has the resources it needs now to ensure the long-term health of our satellites.

Additionally, I am concerned about the bill's \$30 million dollar cut to NOAA's climate research activities. Addressing climate change is our most pressing environmental challenge and NOAA's climate research furthers our understanding and the implementation of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. We should be doing more to combat climate change, not less.

Finally, with respect to NASA, while I'm pleased that the Committee on Appropriations has proposed a strong top-line for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that is consistent with the President's overall request, I am troubled by the way that funding is allocated. In particular, I cannot support the deep cuts made to NASA's Earth Science program. Given the leadership role NASA plays nationally in studies of the Earth system, including climate change, these cuts will do serious long term damage if enacted into law.

In addition, I question the proposed reduction to the Orion crew vehicle program from the FY 2015 funding level, especially given the concern expressed in the report language about NASA's ability to test all human-rated systems on the first Exploration Mission–1. I also question the proposal to fund the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account, which is critical to maintaining a world class workforce and infrastructure, below the President's request.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, as I said before, this bill is a missed opportunity, and I cannot support it in its current form.

I yield back.

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Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS).

Mr. ROSS. Thank you, Chairman CULBERSON, and thank you for presenting this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of an important amendment that will be offered by my colleague, Representative BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, to defund the Department of Justice program known as Operation Choke Point.

Created under the guise of a program to root out banking fraud and money laundering, Operation Choke Point has been used by administration bureaucrats to pressure and force banks to end relationships with legitimate businesses it considers objectionable or a "reputational risk."

This administration has targeted legitimate small businesses such as firearm and ammunition dealers, cigar shops, pawn stores, payday lenders, and others. The backdoor effort to target legitimate law-abiding businesses it does not like and to coerce banks to choke off relationships with these legitimate businesses is contrary to our Nation's fundamental principles of freedom.

In voting to defund Operation Choke Point, I will be voting to rein in this out-of-control administration and its assault on small, legal, legitimate businesses.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), a gentleman who, in this House, has spent a great deal of time providing leadership in terms of small businesses and connecting them up with our research institution.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank my friend for yielding and for his work on the Appropriations Committee.

I want to say that, Mr. Chairman, I understand the constraints that the chairman is working under, and I appreciate his work on those items that were mentioned by Ranking Member FATTAH and other Members on this side.

I rise in opposition to this bill because it fails to fund scientific research at levels we need to spur innovation and remain competitive as a Nation. In particular, I want to call attention to report language in the bill that will result in cuts to the social sciences and geosciences of over \$250 million.

The NSF is the largest single source of funding for basing research in our country in a variety of fields, and that is especially true for the social sciences.

Some will say these cuts are needed to prioritize research in other areas, but this approach of limiting funding for social science is misguided for several reasons.

First, other areas of research are already heavily prioritized at the NSF. In fiscal year 2015, the NSF will spend only 3.7 percent of its budget on social science research—clearly not an outsized priority.

This is especially true when you consider that social science research saves lives and money. It was NSF-funded social science research that developed

the kidney transplant program that has led to thousands of successful donor-patient pairings that had not been possible before.

Spectrum auctions conducted by the FCC were made possible by economic research sponsored by the NSF. These auctions raise billions of dollars for taxpayers and will free up chunks of spectrum so we can stay at the cutting edge of wireless technologies.

Social science research is also critical for cybersecurity, as we have heard from many expert witnesses in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Most cyber breaches occur because of human factors, and social science is vital in addressing this grave security risk.

For these reasons, I am urging my colleagues to oppose these cuts and to oppose this bill. We need to do better for scientific research for the sake of our country, our economy, and our jobs.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, could I inquire as to how much time remains on each side?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Texas has 7½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my good friend from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, one of the greatest innovations that has ever been developed by man to connect people from every corner of the Earth, whether in cafes or homes or in schools, is the Internet.

The reason the Internet has expanded and grown around the world and has been such an engine for innovation is the fact that the Internet embodies the American idea of free speech. That very idea of free speech in the Internet is under attack because the administration and some people in this institution want to see the core functions of the Internet be transferred to a foreign body that doesn't share our idea of free speech.

Let's keep the Internet open. Let's make sure that we continue with the great American idea of free speech not just here in America, but in every corner of the globe because the Internet will embody that idea of free speech.

The Internet was made in America. Let's keep the core functions of the Internet in America.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I have one remaining speaker, so I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, it is a distinct privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentlemen from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished chairman of the full Science, Space, and Technology Committee, my colleague and good friend.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee for yielding me time.

I thank the chairman, also, and his staff, especially John Martens, Leslie Albright, and Ashley Schiller, for working with the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

I especially appreciate the chairman's support for prioritizing the funding of the basic research at the National Science Foundation. This research—especially in the areas of math and physical sciences, biology, computing, and engineering—holds the promise of breakthroughs that will trigger technological innovation, jump-start new industries, and spur economic growth.

This bill ensures that NSF is transparent and accountable to American taxpayers about how their hard-earned dollars are spent and that NSF-supported research is in the national interest.

The House CJS Appropriations bill also addresses concerns about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's costly satellite program. In addition, this bill encourages NOAA to include private sector involvement in the space-based weather industry.

Finally, I thank Chairman CULBERSON for his reprioritization of NASA planetary science, which implements the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's NASA authorization reported in April.

I further look forward to working with Chairman CULBERSON and Chairman ROGERS to fully fund the Orion and Commercial Crew programs so that we can once again launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

Again, I thank my friend from Texas, Chairman CULBERSON, for his enthusiasm and initiative and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman CULBERSON and the staff of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee, especially John Martens, Leslie Albright and Ashley Schiller for working with the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I particularly appreciate your support for prioritizing the funding of the basic research at the National Science Foundation.

This research, especially in the areas of math and physical sciences, biology, computing and engineering, holds the promise of breakthroughs that will trigger technological innovation, jumpstart new industries and spur economic growth.

This bill also supports other language in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, which passed the House two weeks ago.

It ensures that NSF is transparent and accountable to American taxpayers about how their hard-earned dollars are spent and that NSF-supported research is in the national interest.

The National Science Foundation has played an integral part in funding breakthrough discoveries in numerous scientific fields such as lasers, the Internet and nanotechnology.

However, NSF has also approved dozens of grants for which the scientific merits and national interest are not obvious, to put it politely.

These include a climate change musical, a Norwegian tourism study, a grant on human-set fires in New Zealand in the 1800's, a study of lawsuits in Peru in the 1600s, and a grant on the causes of stress in Bolivia.

This bill supports the policy that every NSF public announcement of a grant award must be accompanied by a non-technical explanation of the project's scientific merits and a certification of how it serves the national interest. This reinforces the standards set forth in the America COMPETES Act of 2015.

The House CJS appropriations bill also addresses concerns about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) costly satellite program.

It ensures that appropriate oversight access is given to the Office of the Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, and NOAA's own Independent Review Team. Likewise, recommendations from these bodies will help guide the satellite programs as they move closer to their anticipated launch dates.

In addition, this bill encourages NOAA to include private sector involvement in the space-based weather industry.

NOAA's costly satellite programs have historically been plagued with management problems. Encouraging NOAA to purchase services from the private sector will allow for a more robust, cost-effective and efficient weather forecasting system that will help save lives and property.

I look forward to offering an amendment shortly, with Chairman CULBERSON's support, to further enhance NOAA's weather research of near-term, affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing and modeling capabilities. The amendment will result in substantial improvements in weather forecasts.

Finally, I thank Chairman CULBERSON for his re-prioritization of NASA planetary science, which implements the Science Committees' NASA Authorization reported in April.

I further look forward to working with Chairman CULBERSON and Chairman ROGERS to fully fund the Orion and Commercial Crew Programs so that we can once again launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

The Commercial Crew program will allow the U.S. access to the International Space Station without depending on Russia. The Orion program will expand human reach into deep space and serve as an emergency backup for the Commercial Crew program.

As we move forward with a Conference with the Senate, I hope that we can identify ways to support these programs more robustly, perhaps by moderating the growth of other accounts such as Earth Science, which has increased 63 percent since 2007 while other areas of NASA have remained flat.

Again, I thank my friend from Texas, Chairman CULBERSON, for his enthusiasm and initiative on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We are going to move into a process of amendments in which the House will work its will, but I think the general debate has illuminated a host of areas where we agree and a few areas where we disagree.

The last speaker, my good friend from Texas, LAMAR SMITH, who has done a lot of work, as he mentioned, there are some areas where we remain in disagreement, which is the notion that we should make some of these changes in terms of science prioritization are issues that not just are there disagreements between the parties, but there is vast concern in the scientific enterprise in the Nation, that we would interject perhaps a viewpoint into science that would move away from merit-based processes.

On that point, I look forward to the amendment process, and I thank the House for listening to our points of view.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we conclude the debate on this bill, it is important for all of us here today to know that, Members of the House, this process is open. Members can come down to the floor and offer an amendment, 5 minutes per side.

We have in this bill prioritized our funding, as we all do in our private life and our business life. Following the good advice of financial guru Dave Ramsey, you don't spend money you don't have, and try to eliminate debt at all possible costs.

We in the majority have done our very best to make sure that we are living within our means. Although the budget caps—I know there is a great deal of frustration among my Democrat colleagues on the limitations on spending. That is the law that was suggested initially by the White House.

It is important that we do all that we can to minimize the debt that we pass on to our children and grandchildren. The budget caps are reality, and we have, within the limitations that we have, prioritized the funding in this bill to make sure that law enforcement is number one; the FBI and the Department of Justice are taken care of; that the National Science Foundation, in fact, is funded at a historically high level. We have given them a \$50 million increase.

We have also funded NASA at a historically high level since the Apollo program. I would certainly like to see the American space program given more. As more money becomes available, if we find an opportunity as we move through conference, of course, we will work hard to make sure that we will plus-up funding for the sciences and space exploration everywhere we can.

I heard my colleagues mention the Legal Services Corporation, which does important work in representing the poor. We will certainly do our best to find additional funding there.

I will also be filing legislation to give attorneys a tax deduction, dollar for dollar, for work that they do donating their time to the poor. I think that is a far better way to get legal services to the poor, through the Tax Code, rather

than by appropriating our taxpayers' hard-earned tax dollars.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out to the Members that, above all, this legislation will ensure that the laws, as enacted by Congress, are enforced. If Federal agencies want the privilege of spending and using our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars, they will need to demonstrate through their spending plans, through their presentations to this committee, that they are actually enforcing the law as written by Congress.

We will, throughout the course of the year, engage in vigorous oversight to ensure that our money is not only wisely spent, that it is prudently spent, that it is only spent when absolutely necessary, but that our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars are only spent to enforce the law as written by the people's elected representatives.

I urge my colleagues to join us today in voting for this important legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2578.

The Internet is one of the great American success stories in our history, benefiting billions of people around the world. Congress has a longstanding and bipartisan commitment to a global, open Internet, free from governmental control. Our support for the decentralized, multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance has enabled its growth as an unparalleled platform for economic opportunity and democratic participation.

Last year the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that the U.S. government would take an important step to transition technical functions of the domain name system to the multi-stakeholder community. This transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) to the private sector has been a U.S. policy goal for two decades, through Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

Since NTIA's announcement, the multi-stakeholder community has stepped up to the plate to craft a transition proposal and enhanced accountability measures needed in the absence of U.S. government stewardship. NTIA has articulated specific criteria for the transition proposal and made clear that any plan must advance our vision of a free and open Internet.

Despite this significant progress, H.R. 2578 includes language that blocks NTIA from using funds to relinquish the IANA functions. This limitation of funds is not only unnecessary, it sends the wrong message to the international community. Our diplomats point to the IANA transition announcement as a key factor helping us win allies and support for an Internet free of government control. As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce stated, this funding restriction "could result in harm to U.S. businesses and Internet users as a whole."

While I oppose this provision in H.R. 2578, I agree with my colleagues that the IANA transition must be conducted carefully and transparently. That's why I'm working with my Republican colleagues at the Energy and Commerce Committee on legislation to ensure NTIA implements the IANA transition consistent with the principles we all support. Our

legislation will address concerns about transparency and accountability, while reaffirming our commitment to the transition.

While I cannot support the funding restriction in H.R. 2578, I stand ready to work with my colleagues on responsible oversight of the IANA transition.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2578

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$472,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International

Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$23,600,000)”.

Page 28, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$2,733,000)”.

Page 30, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$293,000,000)”.

Page 47, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$45,000,000)”.

Page 49, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$52,500,000)”.

Page 72, line 7, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$270,000,000)”.

Page 72, line 7, after the second dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$266,900,000)”.

Page 72, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 72, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000)”.

Mr. GOODLATTE (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment restores necessary funding for the Federal Prisoner Detention program.

The Marshals Service assumes custody of individuals arrested by all Federal agencies and is responsible for the housing and transportation of prisoners from the time they are brought into Federal custody until they are either acquitted or transferred to the Federal Bureau of Prisons' custody for incarceration.

The FPD program provides housing, medical care, and transportation for Federal prisoners housed in non-Federal facilities and has an average daily population of approximately 45,000 prisoners. This funding is critical to ensur-

ing that the United States Marshals Service can provide safe, human care and custody for the approximately 204,000 Federal prisoners it will be responsible for in fiscal year 2016.

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Mr. Chairman, the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill falls nearly \$400 million short of the funding necessary to maintain the Marshals Service's prisoner detention operations. This matter must be corrected. My amendment would simply reduce less critical accounts to make up for this astounding shortfall.

This amendment reduces youth mentoring programs by \$45 million, leaving a generous sum of \$50 million for youth mentoring.

My amendment also zeros out the new, unauthorized grant program to improve police-community relations. While this concept may have merit, the creation of such a program is the responsibility of the House Judiciary Committee.

This amendment also reduces funding for the International Trade Administration by 5 percent and for the Community Relations Service by 20 percent.

Finally, my amendment leaves \$30 million in funding for the Legal Services Corporation to administer existing grants and to promote pro bono efforts.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), the chairman of the subcommittee, who has worked with my staff very diligently on a number of issues related to this matter, and I would be prepared to withdraw this amendment in lieu of all the difficulties he has in finding funds for the priority he has but, nonetheless, hoping that he will acknowledge that this is a priority that has been shortchanged and that we need to make sure that not only are these prisoners able to be held, and held according to law, but also that it does not give rise to prisoners being released in circumstances where they otherwise should be held in incarceration.

So I am hoping that, if the gentleman would agree moving forward to help us try to find additional funds for this account, perhaps the gentleman from Pennsylvania would be willing to help as well, and I would be willing to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to ensure that these prisoners are not released. I will work diligently with my colleague from Philadelphia to find additional funds as we move forward in the process. The last thing we want is these people being released.

It has been a privilege for me to work with you and your staff. I am very privileged to follow in the footsteps of your colleague from Virginia, Frank Wolf, who was chairman of the CJS Subcommittee, and I have continued that close working relationship. We will do everything we can to find funding to make sure that these Federal

prisoners are not released early. That is a subject near and dear to my heart. I am very sensitive to it.

We had a Federal judge in Texas running our prisons for 25 years, William Wayne Justice; and I sued him, as a State representative, to end his control over the prisons because one of the main things he was doing was causing the early release of prisoners to go victimize Texans, which is utterly unacceptable. So this is a top priority. I will work with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I obviously would work with the chairman on this and a whole range of other items. The offsets that you have identified would be very problematic, from my point of view. But I will work with the chairman. We need to make sure we fully fund the U.S. Marshals Service.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GUINTA

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 6, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from New Hampshire and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill to increase the funding for our Nation’s drug courts by \$5 million.

Drug courts keep people in treatment and can be one of the most effective intervention programs for those suffering from drug addiction. And just as important, these courts reduce crime, save money, and serve families and children affected by substance abuse.

Drug and substance abuse directly impacts our States, communities, law enforcement, and families across the country. In the past 5 years alone, in my home State of New Hampshire, overdoses have increased fivefold. Last year in the Granite State, deaths from heroin and illicit drug use exceeded

auto-related deaths in the State. Drug use and abuse have devastated countless families from the Granite State.

Drug courts are transforming the criminal justice system across our Nation by creating a systematic response to substance abuse and crime as an alternative to incarceration. It is not every day that we get to directly save lives in government. The drug courts program has proven to do just that.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman LYNCH, for working with me on this amendment to ensure this much-needed funding.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment as we continue to tackle the drug abuse epidemic that is plaguing communities around our Nation.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GUINTA. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman’s amendment.

Drug courts are a proven way to get a good outcome for people who are arrested for drug offenses. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the subcommittee have already funded the drug courts at \$41 million, \$5 million above the request. I think the gentleman’s amendment is a worthwhile increase, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GUINTA. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, on that, I want to say something, and then I will yield to my colleague.

I led the effort in my home State to create drug courts when I was in the State senate before any of my gray hairs. They have worked out spectacularly well in many places throughout the country. So I support the gentleman from New Hampshire’s amendment.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA). He and I were of a similar mind in terms of this amendment, and I am delighted that the chairman has accepted the amendment.

We understand the good that drug courts do in our society and in our system. It actually combines the resources of family, the courts, law enforcement, substance abuse agencies, our local and town governments, State governments, and, of course, the Federal Government as well.

Drug addiction in the United States is an epidemic that affects every city and town across America, and it cuts

across every demographic. It leaves in its wake shattered lives and families and costs taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that the total overall cost of substance abuse in the United States, including lost productivity and health and crime-related costs, exceeds \$600 billion every year. The institute also reports that drug addiction treatment has been shown to reduce associated health and social costs by far more than the costs of treatment, itself. Drug courts can be the first step on the road back for those suffering with addiction.

Drug addiction is a disease, and people under the influence often act out of character. Society is beginning to recognize that we need to deal with addiction and its outcome in a way that can have a positive effect on individuals and their families and communities. I believe drug courts offer this opportunity by providing a support system and a road map for moving forward.

The drug courts are specialized dockets which handle cases involving drug-and/or alcohol-dependent offenders charged with nonviolent offenses determined to have been caused or influenced by their addiction.

I have visited many of the prisons in my State, and I would say, in some cases, 80 to 90 percent of those inmates who are in there have dual addictions at the root of their problems.

I do want to recall the support that we received in the past from the former chairman, Frank Wolf of Virginia, who is a good and decent man, and we miss him here. But I am glad to see that the current chairman is of a similar mind, and I want to thank him as well.

Mr. GUINTA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to echo the sentiments of the gentleman from Massachusetts. This is a worthwhile attempt to try to help and heal families, address our process of incarceration, but also to make sure that we are doing the right thing for families across not just our region in New England, but across the country.

I would also like to thank Appropriations Committee Chairman ROGERS and Subcommittee Chairman CULBERSON for their hard work not just on this component, an amendment to the bill, but the overall bill and the commitment to this particular issue. Again, I would urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1)”.

Page 4, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1)”.

Page 7, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 43, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Washington and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Chairman ROGERS for working together with Representatives PASCRELL, DENT, and HERRERA BEUTLER to develop this amendment.

I rise today to offer this critical amendment with the colleagues that I just mentioned. This amendment increases the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program by \$100 million and decreases the Census Bureau by an equal amount.

Last year, the COPS Hiring Program received bipartisan support and was funded at \$180 million in the omnibus. Unfortunately, the underlying legislation completely eliminates the COPS Hiring Program.

While we cannot restore COPS Hiring Programs and add them back into the bill due to House rules governing consideration of appropriation measures, we can help ease the burden and mitigate the impact of the program's elimination on local law enforcement by passing this bipartisan amendment.

To continue to meet the needs of police departments across the country, this additional \$100 million for Byrne JAG should specifically be used for grants to police departments for hiring. Ensuring the safety of our communities and neighborhoods should be one of our first priorities, and we cannot do without a sufficient number of police officers.

Mr. Chairman, the police officers and law enforcement agencies across this country are asked to do more and more with less and less, and let me just give you some examples.

When I was the sheriff in Seattle, I provided deputies to Federal task force efforts, the Joint Fugitive Task Force; the Joint Terrorism Task Force; the HIDTA Task Force, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force; the fusion center; and I could go on with some others.

The role that local law enforcement plays in the efforts of Federal law enforcement are integral. They are interconnected. They can't be separated. It is a team effort from the Federal law enforcement agencies to the local law enforcement agencies. And sometimes people in this Chamber get confused as to what the local law enforcement's role is when it comes to Federal responsibility.

I will just give you an example of one of my own personal experiences. Early

in my career as a police officer, a sheriff's deputy on the streets in the mid-seventies, I made a traffic stop. I came across a young lady who happened to be in the employment of somebody who was connected to a crime syndicate within the Washington State area who was operating human trafficking operations from Texas to Anchorage, and not only that, but they were involved in drug trafficking.

So I developed this informant as a patrol officer driving around in my patrol car. You would never think that I might have the opportunity to bust a big case like this. But this is just an example of the day-to-day activity that police officers operate in, and they collect this information. I took it to the Federal agency responsible. I went to the DEA.

I had a secret meeting in a hotel room in downtown Seattle. The informant wouldn't trust the Federal operatives, but she trusted me. So I had to bring her there. We came up with a plan for me to travel to Texas. It is a long story. I won't get into the rest of it. But I think that everyone in this room gets the picture of how critical it is for us to integrate Federal and local law enforcement and that we have a responsibility, as the United States Congress, on the House side and on the Senate side, to support those efforts.

□ 1530

As matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I was hired under a Federal grant in 1972 called the PEP program. I would not have had a 33-year career if I wasn't hired with Federal money. So this \$100 million is going to be so much appreciated by our men and women.

I want to mention just one other criminal aspect of this bill. It is not perfect. No bill is perfect. The law enforcement community is not perfect. We are not perfect. Congress is not perfect. The community is not perfect. We need to stop looking at the negative and the bad in all of these organizations together and start looking at the good, come together, and figure out a solution to bringing police and community together.

Today there aren't enough cops on the street. The community policing program has, in some parts of this country, been eliminated or cut back. So school resource officers are gone in some communities. Storefront officers are gone. They are gone, Mr. Chairman, and we need to bring them back. We can do it together. We can solve this problem and keep our community safe.

I appreciate the gentleman and the time you have allowed me.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I gladly yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), my chairman, if he has any more to add on this matter before I yield to my colleague over here.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman, just to say that, as you know, we discussed in full committee that the purpose of our bill was to shift the COPS hiring because it has not been reauthorized a number of years over to the Byrne JAG Program, which can be used for hiring because these are grant applications that can be tailored for your specific community. You can be sure the money is targeted precisely for your needs in Seattle or Philadelphia, so the Byrne JAG Program money can indeed be used for hiring police officers.

I strongly support the gentleman's amendment because it will allow more community hiring of police officers, and that is a good thing. God bless all our law enforcement officers, and we can't give them enough support.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and my brother in the Law Enforcement Caucus, DAVID REICHERT, from Washington.

I want to thank my colleagues who have joined in a strong show of bipartisan support for the COPS program, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. DENT included.

Let us be clear what this amendment does. The Reichert amendment increases funding for the Byrne JAG by \$100 million for hiring purposes, a critical step—I think, an important message.

Our amendment is supported by the major voices in the law enforcement community, including the National Association of Police Organizations, the Major County Sheriffs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the Sergeant Benevolent Association, so I urge my colleagues to support it.

But despite all of the debate about community policing happening across our Nation, as Mr. REICHERT referred to, the American people need to know that, despite what our amendment does, the underlying bill eliminates the Federal COPS Hiring Program. It is simply unacceptable that every year we ask the law enforcement community to do more and more with less and less.

Mr. Chairman, in last year's House bill, the COPS program was cut by \$109 million, 61 percent. So we can pontificate all we want about how we are behind the police officers of this country, but what we continue to do with successful programs, successful programs by any account, cut and cut. We were able to restore some of the money thanks to DAVID REICHERT and a few other people from both sides of the aisle, thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member.

This year—this, despite being joined by over 150 of our colleagues from both

sides of the aisle in asking the committee to support the COPS program—you gutted it. We can't even amend it. It is done. It is over.

As a cornerstone of the Federal Government's efforts to assist State and local law enforcement, COPS Hiring has funded over 127,000 public safety officer positions. DAVID REICHERT was on the front line. He can speak to the issue over and over again. He has been there and done it. I just can talk about it.

Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, it is plain and simple. Fewer cops on the beat mean more crime on the street. Fewer cops on the beat mean more crime on our streets. I ask you—I ask you to do everything in your power, as you have done in the past—to restore what I think is probably one of the most efficient programs in the entire Federal Government, the COPS program.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me say in conclusion that I join with the chairman. I support this amendment. I support the COPS program.

For 20 years, the Federal Government has been engaged in this, launched under President Clinton, which has reduced crime in our country, has saved lives, has made communities safer. And even though there is some disagreement about the authorization, there is no disagreement, I don't believe, that we should be providing resources. I think the gentleman articulated on the front end of this discussion how intertwined local police are with our Federal law enforcement efforts and how critically indispensable they are in these efforts.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Chairman, if I could point out to my good friend from New Jersey what we have done is simply shift the program over to the Byrne JAG Program, because with Byrne JAG you can customize your application for New Jersey, for Philadelphia, or for Seattle. You can hire police officers under the Byrne JAG Program. We shifted the program over to Byrne JAG because it is far more effective and can be tailored to your community.

So, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support this amendment because with this amendment we are restoring the funding for the COPS Hiring Program, but doing it through a far more effective and locally tailored program, the Byrne JAG Program. So I would urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, we are in agreement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POLIQUIN

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$44,000,000)".

Page 6, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,000,000)".

Page 7, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$36,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Maine and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, families in northern, central, western, and downeast Maine are some of the hardest working, most honest people you can find in the country. They expect and they want a more effective and a more accountable government that works for them, sir, and not against them.

Now, one of the most important jobs of the Federal Government is to make sure that we protect American workers against unfair and unlawful trade practices. This is very clear in our Constitution, and the Founding Fathers made this clear to us all.

Today, here in Washington, the International Trade Administration is responsible for enforcing these trade rules. Last year, three of our major paper mills in our district, the Second District of Maine, in Bucksport, Old Town, and Millinocket, closed. Mr. Chairman, 1,000 of the most skilled paper makers in the world are no longer working, and those 1,000 paychecks are no longer flowing to their families to help them care for their kids.

This year in central Maine, in Madison, Maine, a fourth paper mill is now facing difficulty and has temporarily shut down a couple of times and furloughed another 200 workers. Now, if you talk to the folks that own the mill and work on the floor in Madison, they cite two reasons: number one is the high cost of energy to run their machinery; secondly, a provincial government in Canada has provided about \$125 million of unfair subsidies to a competing paper mill across the border. These subsidies, which are unlawful and unfair, have allowed this competing paper mill to buy new equipment and to subsidize the cost of energy to run their machinery. As a result, the price of supercalendered paper that is made across the border and also in Madison, Maine, has plummeted, causing our mill in Madison to temporarily shut down and furlough its workers.

Now this, Mr. Chairman, is not right, and this is not fair. American workers are the best in the world. We can compete with anybody in any industry in the global marketplace as long as it is a level playing field.

As our office, Mr. Chair, got involved in this issue, the ITA made it very clear to us that they did not have the staff able to fully address this issue in what we believe to be a full, thorough, and comprehensive investigation, including a number of different paper mills, when it comes to these unfair subsidies.

Up in our district, we are very frugal. We are fiscal conservatives. The folks in Maine can stretch a dollar, Mr. Chair, wider than anybody else in the country. So I am not suggesting that we increase the size of government and we increase spending. Quite the opposite. I believe our government is too big and too intrusive. However, I do have a solution to this problem.

My amendment, Mr. Chair, asks that we transfer less than 5 percent of the funding this year going to the Census Bureau to the ITA such that they have the resources to thoroughly and effectively conduct an investigation dealing with these unfair provincial subsidies in Canada.

Now, not only will a thorough and fair investigation help our workers at the Madison mill in central Maine, but it will also help the backlog of cases at the ITA that affect tens of thousands of workers in various industries all throughout America. We all know in this room, on both sides of the aisle, that fair trade results in more jobs.

All of us here in this Chamber want to make sure we do everything humanly possible to help our companies grow, be more competitive, more successful, and hire more workers. When that happens, Mr. Chairman, our workers have better lives with more opportunities, more freedom, and less government dependence.

This is about jobs, Mr. Chair, and it is all about national security. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to please support this amendment to make sure that we have fair trade in this country.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleague to consider withdrawing the amendment. I would like to work with him to ensure that this case is investigated. The ITA is funded at a level of over \$470 million.

I can only imagine how devastating this must be to the families there in Madison, Maine, that have lost their jobs and had their jobs furloughed and suspended because of an unfair subsidy right across the border. This is exactly what ITA is supposed to be doing. The Appropriations Committee has extraordinary influence over these agencies, and this is exactly the kind of case the ITA should be working on.

I want to pledge to you my full support and assistance in making sure that this case is investigated and pursued aggressively if you consider withdrawing the amendment, because the

Census has gotten hammered pretty hard. They just had \$100 million transferred over to COPS Hiring. And if we could, I would certainly like to work with you as we move forward in ensuring that this case is investigated and handled.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I would also work with the chairman on this matter to make sure this is fully reviewed and investigated.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

□ 1545

Mr. POLIQUIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate it very much.

Although I do believe, sir, that jobs are more important than counting people, we will use the full authority of our office to help our workers at the Madison Mill to make sure that we do everything to have a level playing field.

I will withdraw this amendment, and I accept your pledge to do everything within your power and authority to please help our paper workers, the most skilled in the world, in central Maine.

Mr. CULBERSON. We will be on it and help you. I look forward to doing so aggressively and in a timely manner. Thank you very much.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Administration Act of 1979, and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$110,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange

Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk involving page 3, line 10.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$311,788,000)".

Page 98, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$311,788,000)".

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I think we have passed that point in the bill.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I had risen before we had passed that point in the bill and was not recognized.

Mr. FATTAH. I don't think it is any fault of your own. I am just saying for the technical matter I think that we have.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has two amendments at the desk, one to the pending paragraph and one to the previous paragraph.

The Chair is entertaining the one to the previous paragraph by unanimous consent.

Mr. FATTAH. Is this the one that the Clerk just read?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is correct. That is the amendment that the Clerk just read and addressing page 3, line 10.

Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment enacts a CBO recommendation to eliminate the trade promotion activities of the International Trade Administration to save almost \$312 million.

What does the ITA do exactly? Well, it has some legitimate functions enforcing trade agreements and treaties. This amendment leaves these functions untouched.

But the ITA also does trade promotion activities. To quote from its own material, it "provides counseling to American companies in order to develop the most profitable and sustainable plans for pricing, export, and the full range of public and private trade promotion assistance... as well as market intelligence, and industry and market specific research."

Well, this is all well and good, but isn't that what businesses and trade associations are supposed to do and used

to do with their own money? Why should taxpayers pay for the profits of private companies?

If a specific business or industry is the sole beneficiary of these services, shouldn't it be the sole financier of them, either individually or collectively through trade associations?

True, this program has been around for generations, but Franklin Roosevelt, who was hardly a champion of smaller government, had the right idea when he slashed its budget in 1932 and closed 31 of its offices. The problem is that reform didn't take. ITA now has over 250 offices and several thousand personnel around the world.

The ITA's authorization lapsed in 1996—19 years ago. It has not been reviewed or authorized by Congress since then, but we still keep shoveling money out the door.

Although it hasn't been reviewed by Congress in all of these years, it has been thoroughly weighed by the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and the President's fiscal commission, and they have all found it sadly wanting. The Simpson-Bowles report summed it up nicely when they said:

"Services provided by ITA's U.S. Commercial Services and other divisions directly providing assistance to U.S. companies should be financed by beneficiaries of this assistance. While the agency charges fees for those services, its fees do not cover the cost of all of its activities. Additionally, it is argued that the benefits of trade promotion activities are passed on to foreigners in the form of decreased export costs."

Simpson-Bowles then goes on to say: "According to a study by the Office of Management and Budget, businesses can receive similar services from State, local, and private sector entities."

This CBO option to eliminate ITA's promotion activities saves \$312 million in 2016 and \$3.5 billion through 2024.

Mr. Chairman, if the CBO, the OMB, and the President's fiscal commission all agree this is wasteful and Congress hasn't bothered to reauthorize it since it expired 19 years ago, why do we continue to spend money that we don't have duplicating services the beneficiaries of those services either don't need or are perfectly capable of funding on their own?

And if the companies that we are told directly benefit from these so-called "essential" services aren't willing to fund them, maybe that is just nature's way of telling us we shouldn't be fleecing our constituents' earnings to pay for them either.

And why would we tap American taxpayers to subsidize the export activities of foreigners, as Simpson-Bowles notes?

The rules of the House were specifically written to prevent this type of unauthorized expenditure, and they provide for a point of order to be raised if it is included in an appropriations

bill. That is exactly what we have here. But alas, that rule is routinely waived when these measures are brought to the floor, making this amendment necessary.

This is a prime example of corporate welfare, and we ought to be done with it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I share my colleague Mr. MCCLINTOCK's feeling about programs that are unauthorized and share his passion for ensuring we don't spend money we don't have.

But as the gentleman from Maine was just out here a moment ago, Mr. POLIQUIN has a perfect example of one of the really valid and very important functions of the ITA, and that is to identify subsidies that are unfair, that imbalance our trade with a foreign nation. As he pointed out, the Canadian Government is unfairly subsidizing a paper mill right directly across the border from his constituents in Madison, Maine, and caused the furloughing of workers at the Madison paper mill. And as I just pledged to Mr. POLIQUIN, I want to make sure that ITA is doing its job when it comes to identifying and enacting some measures to counterbalance unfair trade practices like that.

I would agree with my friend from California: when it comes to promoting American business, that is the job of the Chamber of Commerce; when it comes to making sure that American businesses get the word out and shares information, that is something American businesses ought to do; but when it comes to unfair subsidies given by foreign governments to their businesses that cause American workers to lose their jobs, that is exactly what the ITA is designed to do. We need trade enforcement, we need countervailing duties, and we need export assistance.

The amendment which the gentleman from California has offered looks to be about a 70 percent cut. I would be happy to work with you and find some ways to find savings within the agency when it comes to promoting American businesses because I am a big believer. Let the Chamber of Commerce do it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. This amendment leaves all of those legitimate activities of the ITA intact. It still leaves \$160 million of activities. All it does is to defund the trade promotion activities that the CBO recognized as being wasteful, as did OMB, as did Simpson-Bowles.

Mr. CULBERSON. Well, the scale of the reduction to reduce the agency by \$311,788,000 so abruptly is going to eliminate the ability, for example, to help Mr. POLIQUIN and other businesses

like theirs across the country that are suffering from unfair subsidies by foreign governments. So, unfortunately, I need to oppose the amendment. A 70 percent cut is simply not sustainable. And Mr. POLIQUIN, I think, made a very eloquent case just a moment ago for the type of work the ITA needs to do. So I would need to urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Philadelphia.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

I also oppose the amendment. The business of our country is, I think, appropriate in making sure that our businesses are not locked out of a market around the world. Only 2 percent of American businesses export anywhere, and we need to have a robust effort because 90 percent of the world's consumers live somewhere else. We do have a reality that other governments are aggressive about promoting their business opportunities. If we want Americans to have jobs here, some of those are connected to these opportunities. So I thank the chairman, and I suggest that this is not an amendment that would be in the interest of the American business community or workers.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I think the scale of the cut would be devastating to the agency. Houston, Texas, is one of the premier exporting centers of the United States, and it is important that we do everything in our power. The Federal Government does have an obligation to enforce trade agreements to make sure that trade is fair and free and that subsidies that are unfairly used by foreign governments to support their own industries, that we have got some way to counterbalance that. That is the essential function of this agency. So, therefore, I would ask Members to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I want to reiterate that this does not in any way affect the enforcement activities of the ITA. It does not in any way affect the measures that Mr. POLIQUIN of Maine just referenced. It affects only the trade promotion activities of the ITA that have been singled out time and again as being duplicative of what the companies profiting from these activities should be paying for themselves or are duplicative of other programs. It is only the trade promotion activities. None of the enforcement activities are affected by this amendment. I would ask for an "aye" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, for grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722), \$213,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, \$37,000,000: *Provided*, That these funds may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, title II of the Trade Act of 1974, section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722), and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Department of Commerce in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprise, including expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private organizations, \$32,000,000.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ANALYSIS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$265,000,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of the Census shall collect data for the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey using the same health insurance questions included in previous years, in addition to the revised questions implemented in the Current Population Survey beginning in February 2014.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 6, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 44, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 46, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 42, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, each day more and more Americans are realizing that we need to take action to deal with mental health issues in this country. We need to make it a priority.

My amendment, in keeping with that sentiment, would provide additional funding for programs under the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act and for Veterans Treatment Courts.

□ 1600

These are programs with proven track records of effectively addressing some of the important issues associated with mental health illnesses. My amendment would offset this increase by taking \$4 million from the periodic censuses and programs account.

Mr. Chairman, both of the programs that would receive an increase in funding under my amendment highlight the need for our justice and mental health systems to work together. As a former sheriff, I can tell you that cooperation is vital. If our justice and mental health systems are collaborating, we can provide more positive outcomes not only for those with mental health illnesses, but for our taxpayers as well.

Grants provided under MIOTCRA are used, among other purposes, to set up mental health courts, for community reentry services, and for training State and local law enforcement officers to help identify and deescalate mental health crises, which saves the lives of both the mentally ill and of the responding officers.

During my 37 years as a cop, I saw firsthand how our jails were becoming warehouses for people with mental health needs. No one is well served by this process, not those with mental illness, not our taxpayers, and, certainly, as I spoke earlier, not our veterans. Let me provide you with some numbers to illustrate what actually is going on within our jails.

According to the Florida Mental Health Institute, over a 5-year period, 97 individuals from Miami-Dade County accounted for 2,200 bookings in the county jail; 27,000 days in the jail; and 13,000 days in crisis units, State hospitals, and emergency rooms.

The cost to the State and to local taxpayers was nearly \$13 million for just 97 people. However, the type of programs my amendment supports have been shown to dramatically reduce those rates.

In Pinellas County, for instance, which is another Florida county, a mental health jail diversion program showed an 87 percent reduction in rearrests for the nearly 3,000 offenders who were enrolled. Not only does my amendment support these programs, but it also recognizes the unique responsibility that we have to our veterans.

Veterans are disproportionately affected by mental health illnesses. Even more, they would likely not have these issues if it weren't for their service to this country. We owe them a better

outcome, and Veterans Treatment Courts can help. My point is that they are some of the best investments we can make.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment. Veterans courts and mental health courts do great work. It is a very important role that they serve.

I want to also thank the gentleman for his service as a police officer. We just simply cannot thank our police officers enough for the good work that they do, and I strongly support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I support the gentleman's amendment, and I thank him for offering it.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Nugent-Collins amendment, which provides critical additional funding for Veterans Treatment Courts and mental health courts.

I have seen firsthand the difference that mental health courts and Veterans Treatment Courts can make. Over the course of the past few months in and around the Ninth District and all over Georgia, this is something that I have worked on not only in the State of Georgia, but also now in working nationally here with my friend from Florida.

Our jails are not mental health facilities, but we continue to use them that way, despite the fact that they are not in anyone's best interest. By treating the mentally ill with compassion, we can provide them a second chance to get better.

We can also cut costs, empower States, reduce recidivism, and ensure that law enforcement officers can focus on protecting the safety of the public. By investing in Veterans Treatment Courts, we can better serve those who have served us, and we can address PTSD and related issues in a more meaningful way.

I appreciate Mr. NUGENT and his tireless leadership on this issue in advocating for a better, more sensible approach. Together, we introduced the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which would expand and further improve upon the mental

health and Veterans Treatment Court programs that are funded by H.R. 2578.

I just want to encourage everyone to support this amendment. Again, let's take an honest, serious look at how we are dealing with those with mental health issues.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. I talked to our colleague from Georgia, who just spoke on this matter, and I know he has talked about how this is really critically important for veterans.

It is a population that we have to be concerned about, so I want to thank you again for offering this, and the chairman and I agree.

Mr. NUGENT. In reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman of the subcommittee and I appreciate the ranking member in their support of this because it really is about how we deal with our fellow man.

It is about a way that we shouldn't be criminalizing mental health disorders. That is the worst thing that we can do. As a police officer and as a sheriff for over 38 years, I have seen the effects of untreated mental illness, particularly in the county jails where they are now warehoused.

I truly do appreciate the support across the board, and I will tell you that our law enforcement officers and our correctional officers will support it also.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$848,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$1,551,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census: *Provided further*, That not more than 50 percent of the amounts made available under this heading for information technology related to 2020 census delivery, including the Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing (CEDCaP) program, may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan for expenditure that (1) identifies for each CEDCaP project/investment over \$25,000 (a) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (b) the estimated lifecycle cost, including estimates for development as well as maintenance and operations, and (c) key milestones to be met; (2) details for each project/investment (a) reasons for any cost

and schedule variances, and (b) top risks and mitigation strategies, and (3) has been submitted to the Government Accountability Office.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 8, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(reduced by \$17,300,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$17,300,000)”.

Page 41, line 14, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$17,300,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, Congress has made it clear that it will not stand for this new scourge that we are finding in our country of human sex trafficking. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act passed the United States Senate 99-0, and it passed the House of Representatives before that with only 3 Members voting against it and all 400-plus voting for it.

Modern-day slavery does happen in the United States. It is a multibillion-dollar business. It is second only to the international crime syndicates of drug trafficking for the amount of money that is raised. It is not time for us to lower the amount of money we have for grants that will assist the victims of this scourge. That is why my amendment brings in just \$17.3 million to this fund that was cut. This \$17.3 million will bring it up to last year's level so that \$43 million will go for victim services and victim grants.

Where does this money come from? From where are we taking it? We are taking it out of the periodic censuses and programs and applying it to this fund.

The periodic censuses and programs—let me make it clear—is not the constitutional census counting that is required to be done by the Census Bureau. This is another program that the Census Bureau has. It is sometimes called the American Community Survey, which is very intrusive.

Without really much choice, it asks citizens numerous questions that are an invasion of their privacy. For example: What time do you go to work? What time do you get home from work? Does anybody in your household have a mental illness or disease? They are questions such as these that are very intrusive. The Census Bureau shouldn't be asking these questions.

Set aside that anyway. With this money, rather than asking people in the community—citizens—to tell us what time they go to work or what time they go during the day to different appointments, like doctors' appointments, we should show the pri-

ority of putting just \$17 million of that money back into this appropriation to help the victims of trafficking.

It will bring it up to last year's level of a mere \$43 million of grant money. That is what this legislation does. It ensures that we are telling trafficking victims there will be money available for grants to assist them and money available for law enforcement to assist them in their training.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, first of all, this is where you can find the contradictions of public policy with the interjection of politics, right?

I totally agree with the purpose, but I totally disagree with the underlying notion that this money is not important to the Census. First and foremost, I agree with the amendment and that we should invest in another \$16 million in helping victims of human trafficking.

It is a major problem in our country—in my part of the country, in your part of the country, and throughout our Nation. We should do more, so I support the amendment.

I don't want us to assume that the periodic census dollars are not important, however, and are not part of the constitutionally mandated census as they are part of the 2020 preparation. We will have to deal with that in some other way, but I don't want to because I agree with the amendment. That is not to suggest that I agree with the underlying thought that this money is not important to the Census.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to join him in supporting this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, we have a terrible problem in this country with human slavery and with human sex trafficking. My colleague from Texas is exactly right, and I strongly support his amendment.

I also share his concern about the American Community Survey, and I intend to pursue aggressive oversight during the months ahead. I do think it is intrusive. Our right to be left alone as Americans is one of our most important rights, so I share the gentleman's concern about the American Community Survey.

We have a responsibility to make sure the Census is funded, but this is a very important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it to help combat this disgraceful scourge of human trafficking.

Mr. FATTAH. In reclaiming my time, I am glad that we are all in agreement.

I don't want families to be left alone, though, if they have someone who is suffering from mental health illnesses.

The reason that question is asked in a community survey is so that, when we are doing funding for communities for mental health services, we know where the impact of those dollars can be most applied. The census is taken for a good reason, but let us agree for the moment on the amendment, and let's move on.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the ranking member and I thank the chairman, as well, for their comments.

Mr. Chairman, the issue is not the American Community Survey. The issue is where we are going to get this money to bring this fund up to last year's level. It is going to come from that portion of the Census that is about \$800 million, and that is why that section was picked. We need to have this lively debate about the American Community Survey in some other setting.

Right now, let's take care of trafficking victims in the United States and provide them grants, and let's provide law enforcement grants and victim services grants so that they can help minor sex trafficking victims who are being trafficked throughout the United States.

I appreciate the ranking member's support and the chairman's support.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), \$35,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICESALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, \$3,272,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2016, so as to result in a fiscal year 2016 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2016, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than \$3,272,000,000 this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further*, That any amount received in excess of \$3,272,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office "Salaries and Expenses" account: *Provided further*, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed \$900 shall be made available in fiscal year 2016 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2016 from the amounts made available for "Salaries and Expenses" for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further*, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29): *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$2,000,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with

carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
TECHNOLOGYSCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND
SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), \$675,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$9,000,000 may be transferred to the "Working Capital Fund": *Provided*, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. EDDIE BERNICE
JOHNSON OF TEXAS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 12, line 9, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$3,000,000) (reduced by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is intended to ensure that the important forensic standards work at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, is fully funded.

The criminal justice system relies on forensic science to identify and prosecute criminals and to exonerate the falsely accused. Justice is not served by either the falsely accused or the victims and their families when the wrong person is imprisoned.

In a series of investigations over the last few years, The Washington Post, the Innocence Project, and the FBI itself have reported on a flawed forensic work that may be responsible for wrongful convictions in thousands of criminal cases.

□ 1615

Innocent people have spent decades in prison, and our State certainly knows about many of them—my home county, as a matter of fact. Some may have already been put to death while the guilty have gone free.

These investigations have covered hair analysis, bite mark analysis, and even DNA, which most people previously believed to be 100 percent accurate and reliable. In short, there has been a steady stream of bad news about flawed forensic work being used in criminal court. And I worry that we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

In a year 2009 report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward," the National Academy of Sciences found that the interpretation of forensic evidence is se-

verely compromised by the lack of supporting science and standards.

Many forensic techniques and technologies lack a scientific foundation. Operational principles and procedures are not standardized, and there are often no standard protocols governing the reporting of forensic evidence.

Since then, I have worked with colleagues in the Senate to develop legislation that would strengthen forensic science and standards. The administration also took notice and has initiated several activities, even without direct action from Congress. The Department of Justice and NIST have become strong partners in this effort. Now, some of my colleagues on Appropriations would like to gut one of these core activities, the standards development work managed by NIST.

For reasons that I cannot comprehend, the report language accompanying this bill would forbid NIST from continuing the voluntary consensus standards development work already underway through the forensics scientific area committees. These committees coordinate development of standards and guidelines for the forensic science community to improve the quality and consistency of forensics evidence used by our justice system.

These committees were established according to the longstanding and well-respected NIST process for developing voluntary consensus standards. As such, the membership of these committees represent the full breadth and depth of stakeholder organizations, including forensic science practitioners, as well as academic scientists and engineers, law enforcement, and others.

To the best of my knowledge, these committees have the support of the full range of stakeholders. Why would we stop, in its tracks, a voluntary consensus standards process that has proven itself effective time and time again? I can see no justifiable reason for trying to keep sound science out of the courtroom.

Mr. Chair, since the language in question is in the committee's report rather than the bill text and will not be sufficiently addressed with this amendment, I plan to withdraw this amendment but seek the approval of both the chair and the ranking member to help correct this language as we move toward the conference report.

My colleagues, I hope, will work with the Senate to rectify this unjustified and unjust restriction.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, I look forward to working with my colleague from Texas and with my colleague from Philadelphia on this matter as we move forward in the conference.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I also would work with the gentlewoman and the chairman on this. You know, the premise of our entire judicial system is that we would rather a guilty person go free than any innocent person be in prison.

Forensic science has brought a lot to the business of better understanding actually what has taken place and to make sure that we don't have innocent people incarcerated.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, \$130,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. ESTY

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 12, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$11,000,000)".

Page 36, line 7, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$31,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentlewoman from Connecticut and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, we should invest in manufacturing, which plays such a vital role in innovation and competitiveness. The Federal Government is uniquely situated to help ensure that manufacturing remains the backbone of the U.S. economy.

My amendment fully funds the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program by increasing funding for the industrial technologies account by \$11 million. This program is the top priority for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Just earlier today, the Chamber listed fully funding the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at \$141 million as its highest priority for the Commerce, Justice, Science bill.

My amendment is also fiscally responsible. It decreases funding for the Federal prison system by \$31 million to ensure that this investment in manufacturing does not affect our national spending.

In Connecticut, we are proud to be a national leader in manufacturing. Our State is home to more than 5,000 manufacturers that provide stable, good-paying jobs for our families. For more than 20 years, our Manufacturing Extension program, the Connecticut

State Technical Extension Program, known as CONNSTEP, has been a trusted adviser for our small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies looking to grow their business and increase their workforce in sales.

Since 2013, CONNSTEP's clients have helped create 511 jobs, retained more than \$527 million in sales, and realized cost savings of \$81 million statewide. In Thomaston, in my district, Metallon, Incorporated, a metal stamping and assembly facility, partnered with CONNSTEP to help conduct internal quality auditing and secure new products. Thanks to the partnership with CONNSTEP, Metallon expanded their workforce and increased sales by half a million dollars.

Metallurgical Processing, Incorporated, a metal processing facility in New Britain, Connecticut, saw a 20 percent increase in production capacity and \$181,000 in cost savings after working with CONNSTEP to streamline product flow and improve production efficiency.

CONNSTEP's support for Connecticut business is critical to our continued leadership in manufacturing, as we not only retain but grow these jobs statewide. I have seen firsthand how CONNSTEP's support has successfully helped our manufacturers to be competitive in an increasingly globalized economy.

But make no mistake, these successes are not just in Connecticut. The Manufacturing Extension program has a proven track record of effective partnerships with manufacturers all across the country. Since the MEP program started more than 25 years ago, centers across America have created more than 729,000 manufacturing jobs, saved companies more than \$13.4 billion, and turned every dollar of Federal investment into \$19 in new sales growth.

The additional funding of the MEP program will enable our centers to fully execute their mission and undertake a robust technology transfer program to help manufacturers take new discoveries from the research lab to the marketplace.

I encourage all my colleagues to support my amendment to fully fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and invest in our manufacturing future.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment because our Federal prison system is already between 30 and 50 percent overcrowded. We have not built a new prison in the United States since 2009. It is vitally important that we have got these prisons in place to keep our most dangerous criminal offenders off the streets.

The amendment that the gentlewoman has offered would immediately

prevent the Bureau of Prisons from expanding its capacity and do severe damage to their ability to reduce overcrowding, which is a threat to the staff, a threat to the inmates, and a threat to the public.

The gentlewoman's amendment—I understand she is concerned—to support the Manufacturing Extension program, we cannot do so at the expense of public safety.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky, the full committee chairman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding.

It is no secret, Mr. Chairman, that there is a strain on our Nation's prison system. As the inmate population continues to rise, our prisons get more and more crowded every day. As the inmate population continues to rise, with 216,000 individuals currently serving Federal sentences, our prisons get more and more crowded every day.

At the end of fiscal 2013—listen to this—25 percent of our medium security inmates and 85 percent of our low security inmates were triple bunked—triple bunked. Considering that 8 out of every 10 medium security inmates has a history of violence, this creates some very serious questions about the safety of the BOP staff, the public, and even other inmates. Updating our prisons will provide greater efficiency and staffing and permits staff to safely oversee more inmates.

Our medium and maximum security prisons house some of the world's most dangerous and violent criminals. The bill before us provides critical funding to the Federal Bureau of Prisons in order to modernize and strengthen our Nation's prison infrastructure. These funds will help protect the public as well as the men and women who work at these facilities. It is imperative that we provide them a safe and secure environment within which to work.

The Federal Government has a commitment to keep the public and prison staff safe, and these dollars are needed to fulfill that commitment. So I oppose this effort to reduce funding for the Bureau of Prisons and urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I want to point out the Manufacturing Extension program is already fully funded. They have got \$130 million set aside for the program in the bill; and, quite frankly, the amendment would endanger the public because we would not be able to proceed with the urgently needed construction of new prison facilities. So I urge my colleagues to join us in opposing this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. ESTY. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, let me just say that I rise in support of the amendment, and I think this shows the bigger picture here if the country has to choose between promoting manufacturing and whether or not we can safely operate the world's largest prison system. We incarcerate more people than any other country in the rest of the world on a per capita basis. We need to be employing more people in manufacturing. This makes sense. I support the gentlewoman's amendment.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c-278e), \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than \$5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, \$3,147,877,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except that funds provided for cooperative enforcement shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, not-

withstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, \$130,164,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries", which shall only be used for fishery activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program, Cooperative Research, Annual Stock Assessments, Survey and Monitoring Projects, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants, and Fish Information Networks: *Provided further*, That of the \$3,295,541,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading \$3,147,877,000 is appropriated from the general fund, \$130,164,000 is provided by transfer, and \$17,500,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corporate services administrative support costs shall not exceed \$208,100,000: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

□ 1630

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$200,000)".

Page 98, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increase by \$200,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a minute to tell you how we got here.

As someone who fished in the Gulf of Mexico long before I got elected to Congress, when they started reducing the snapper season back in 2007, we had approximately 190 days to fish as the recreational angler. They have now taken that down to 10 days.

Through the Gulf councils, the National Marine Fisheries Service has worked through the councils to reduce the American recreational fishermen's opportunity to fish for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico by 95 percent since 2007. At the same time, they have increased quotas and allocations for the commercial sector. And most recently through the Gulf council, they cast a vote, 7-10, to split the recreational sector, and they gave the for-hire recreational sector 45 days and the not-for-hire 10 days.

Now, let me just explain what that means to you. It means that if you

want to just take your family fishing, you have 10 days to do it. If you want to go in the other 35 days of that recreational season, you have to pay a charter boat captain to take you out.

What happened with the council is three of the members who voted had a vested interest in the charter boat industry that they did not disclose prior to the vote, even though Federal law required that they do it. Then, they turned around and cast that vote which personally benefited them, which, again, was illegal.

I appreciate the committee working to put in the money for more data in an effort to get the recreational season back for the not-for-hire recreational angler, but to be honest with you, if you give them all the data in the world, no matter what it says, if they continue to conduct themselves in that manner, it won't matter. They will simply allocate themselves more fish.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. I understand the gentleman is going to withdraw his amendment, and he has identified a serious problem that he has brought to our attention that I want to work with my ranking member on.

I understand that it sounds to me like we have got a clear violation of Federal law involved here, and I am very distressed to hear of this reduction. It is a 95 percent reduction in the time available to individual Americans to fish, which is a very important part to all of us who live next to the Gulf of Mexico who go out and fish for red snapper.

I am very concerned to hear about this failure to disclose the conflict of interest, and I would like to work with the gentleman from Georgia to help rectify this and make sure that the law not only is obeyed, but the agency is responsive to the needs of private fishermen. I would like to work with my colleague from Philadelphia on this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, let me say that I thank the chairman and ranking member. This is something that needs to be rectified. If an illegal action was taken, it needs to be reversed.

Based on your commitment to work with us on this amendment at this time, I look forward to having those discussions, and I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, lines 1, 18, and 19, after each dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$60,760,000) (increased by \$60,760,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Sadly, the funding in this bill for NOAA's climate research is shamefully inadequate and puts at risk efforts to mitigate and respond to the impacts of climate change. It cuts NOAA's climate research by \$30 million relative to the current fiscal year's inadequate level and is \$61 million below the President's request. I am offering an amendment to restore the funding to the President's level.

All across America, we are dealing with the impacts of climate change. Extreme weather events, whether it is the recent floods in Texas, or the persistent 4-year drought in California, are regular events. They claim lives and cost billions of dollars each year. Floods, droughts, superstorms, wildfires, heat waves, and sea level rise are all made worse as a result of climate change.

We are no longer talking just about preparing for the future. It is happening now. And the evidence is clear as we go from one extreme weather event to another that it is getting worse.

NOAA climate research funds atmospheric and oceanic research, cooperative institutes, universities, climate research laboratories, and others that will advance climate science and enable better decisionmaking and better policies to make our communities more resilient.

It makes no sense to defund programs to help us prepare for extreme weather events; mitigate the impacts of such events; prevent the loss of human life, infrastructure, and property; and better predict these occurrences.

Choosing to deny climate change does not stop it from happening, and failing to study and authorize these programs will not make the problem go away. In fact, it will only make us more vulnerable and hurt our ability to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has a record level of funding in this bill for weather forecasting, which is where they need to focus their work: predicting the future and telling American farmers, American workers, American industry, and the American people what the future holds. What does the next week, the next month, or hurri-

cane season hold for the people of the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Coast?

So, in an era of scarce resources we have funded NOAA with a record level of funding for weather forecasting. We have made sure they have got all the money they need for maritime safety and for supporting and monitoring America's fisheries.

We have made sure in this bill that NOAA is focusing on their core function, and that is looking to the future. That, of course, is going to involve looking at climate. But over the past several years climate funding within NOAA has received more than adequate funding, and we have to use the scarce, very precious, hard-earned taxpayer dollars that we are entrusted to appropriate very carefully. We have to prioritize that funding, and within this bill, we have chosen to prioritize weather forecasting.

I respect the gentleman's judgment but would ask him if he could withdraw the amendment, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that NOAA has got everything they need to accurately predict the weather in the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Blumenauer amendment.

In business, we are always fighting the tendency of the long term giving away to the short term, the important giving away to the urgent and the immediate.

I am deeply disappointed that this budget for climate research has been cut by \$30 million. Now is not the time to cut climate research.

From the floods in Houston to the drought in California, shifts in climate over the next few decades will cost American companies and American communities hundreds of billions of dollars. NOAA has the ability to do advanced forecasting predictions certainly for weather- and for ocean-related phenomena, but they also have it for climate short- and long-term change. This ability is crucial to support the future of our businesses, coastal cities, and environmental health.

This Congress has repeatedly affirmed that climate change is real. We may have different ideas about the cause of climate change and certainly what we can do to combat it, but it makes no sense to slash the very research which will enable us to find effective, bipartisan solutions.

We must robustly fund climate science research, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman is going to withdraw the amendment, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. In this bill there are three cuts: at NASA on the Earth Science program, the cut to the National Science Foundation in terms of the ability to focus on geosciences, and the issue that is raised by my great friend from Oregon, and they combine to make the point that there is not yet a consensus in one place. Even though there is a consensus in the scientific community, the majority still is not yet clear that climate is something that we need to focus on.

I urge support for the Blumenauer amendment.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I respect my friend from Texas. I appreciate his willingness to work with me and his notion of putting more resources in forecasting, but that is not the issue here.

What we need to be doing is having a robust effort at NOAA to be able to deal comprehensively with climate, being able to deal with how we help communities be more resilient, how we are able to deal with the forces that are down upon us to help the scientific bases to be able to maybe even encourage this Congress to step up and do its job.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, could the gentleman be more specific about what it is he is asking NOAA to do?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. It is our ability to provide reliable, long-term drought forecasts, projections of regional drought indicators, and issues dealing with the prediction of what happens in terms of flood research and performance of climate and weather models.

This is not simply a matter of predicting next week's weather. This is dealing with long-term consequences and helping communities deal with the impact of climate change and being able to understand it better.

Mr. Chairman, this is an entirely self-imposed constraint from my Republican friends. They have passed hundreds of billions of dollars of unfunded tax cuts out of committee. There is more than adequate money.

Because the budget is so hopelessly inadequate, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GUINTA

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$70,000,000) (increased by \$70,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from New Hampshire and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I plan to withdraw this amendment, but I would like the opportunity to briefly explain.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act of 1954 imposed a special duty on fish and fish products imported into the United States and required that 30 percent of the money collected by NOAA would go toward supporting fisheries and research and development on the industry's long-term sustainability. However, NOAA has not been properly paying into its regional fishing grant programs and is using these tariffs as part of its operational expenses.

To ensure a thriving fishing industry, we must invest in initiatives that increase the stock of our Nation's fisheries by providing grants to research and monitor them as well as management programs.

During my first term, I introduced legislation that would ensure that key programs critical to sustainably managing ocean fish populations and the fishermen and communities that depend on them would receive increased and sustained funding.

I sincerely thank Chairman CULBERSON for considering my appropriations letter and including the transfer of \$130 million in existing funds to be used exclusively on Saltonstall-Kennedy fishing activity, particularly the S-K regional fisheries investment grant program.

This transfer of funds will directly provide grants to regional fishery management councils that would work with area fishermen to identify investment priorities. These investment priorities include disaster assistance, improving shoreline infrastructure, seafood promotion, and managing highly migratory species.

The transfer of these funds will help; however, it is a temporary fix to a much larger issue.

□ 1645

This year, I, along with my friend Congressman BILL KEATING, have introduced the same legislation that would ensure that NOAA follow the requirement laid out in the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act of 1954.

Again, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for taking my letter and thoughts into consideration. I appreciate the hard work of the committee on this issue and the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to work with the gentleman from New Hampshire on this issue as we move forward. I understand the importance of the issue. I appreciate very much you raising it here with us today, and we look forward to working with you.

We do include language stating that certain funds may be used only for activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program.

We have worked with NOAA for the past several years to reduce their administration costs. We will continue to do so this year, and I will continue to work with you as we move forward through the process.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, lines 1, 18, and 19, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to several of the critical accounts in the bill that have been cut, which my amendment would address.

The CJS Appropriations Act specifically targets funding for NOAA's climate research programs by \$30 million over currently enacted levels, a program so important for farmers, for businesses, for air safety, for so many different reasons. That is a 20 percent cut to programs that are imperative to our Nation's ability and resilience in the face of climate threats.

Twenty-five people were killed in the floods that saturated Texas last month. Damage from Hurricane Sandy was estimated at \$700 billion back in 2012, and at least six people died in Boulder and Larimer County during the flooding that overtook my region in 2013. None of these places had ever seen storms like the ones they encountered over the last 5 years, and each were unprepared to handle it.

NOAA and its partner institutions have made a huge dent in preventing disasters like these by keeping first responders, weather forecasters, businesses, communities, and families on the cutting edge of data predictability and resilience, providing quality raw data, as well as helping to develop new algorithms for interpreting existing data.

Two of our partner institutions, CU and CSU, are located in my district in Colorado. Together with NOAA, these institutions are developing unmanned atmospheric assessment aircraft that allow us to foresee changes in weather patterns, incoming storms, days before we could otherwise, saving lives and saving property damage.

These are very real tangible benefits that benefit all and protect Americans, regardless of whether one believes in climate change or what is causing it. I

urge my colleagues to consider a world without these capabilities and what that would look like.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. We have, as I said earlier, scarce resources this year. We have to prioritize the very precious and scarce hard-earned taxpayers dollars that we are entrusted to look after, and we have prioritized funding within NOAA for forecasting in the future.

As I was telling Mr. BLUMENAUER earlier, Mr. POLIS, we have made sure that NOAA has got a record level of funding for weather forecasting and most of the things that Mr. BLUMENAUER was mentioning, in terms of forecasting drought, identifying where floods are going to occur.

Looking forward, we have made sure that NOAA's got all the money they need for forecasting in the future, and we have to, I think, do everything we can to avoid cutting other parts of NOAA that would impair the weather forecasting or the development, maintenance, and operation of the weather satellites which could help NOAA inform people of severe weather.

We, on the Gulf Coast in particular and on the Atlantic Coast as well, depend on NOAA to give us accurate forecasts of the paths of hurricanes. Hurricane season this year, they are predicting—because of the increase in computing power of supercomputers, they are able to predict it looks like it is going to be—the hurricane season this year is not going to be as severe.

That capacity of NOAA to use supercomputing power to look that far into the future is of vital importance, so we have made sure that they have got a record level of funding for forecasting.

We also do not want to reduce NOAA's capacity to support maritime navigation or to appropriately manage their fisheries. We just have limited resources, is the problem, Mr. POLIS; and I just have had to prioritize NOAA's funding.

We have put weather forecasting at the top of the list because of its vital importance for the economy and for the safety and security of the American people.

I understand you are planning to withdraw the amendment, and I would certainly look forward to working with you. As Mr. BLUMENAUER mentioned a number of worthwhile endeavors that NOAA is engaged in, if you feel there are areas we need to work together on to get NOAA focused on to do a better job of forecasting in the future or other concerns, I would be happy to work with you.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado if he would like to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to emphasize the importance of climate science with regard to predicting weather. The more we know about climate and climate patterns, the more it enhances our ability to predict short-term weather phenomena; therefore, a disproportionate cut to the climate science piece hampers our ability to anticipate weather patterns as well.

Mr. CULBERSON. I look forward to working with you as we move forward in the process. I understand you are planning to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. POLIS. I have additional speakers.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I think one of the most concerning things about this budget proposal is, without question, the proposal to cut \$30 million to NOAA. That represents an approximately 20 percent cut, as my colleague from Colorado was pointing out.

Mr. Chairman, I find it interesting that those who would deny the science of climate change often like to say, Well, the jury is still out, we need more research; yet here we are, with a budget that will cut that very research.

Mr. Chairman, just a couple of years ago, in my house in Philadelphia, we were riding out a hurricane. Hurricane Sandy ended up becoming Superstorm Sandy. We never imagined that, in Philadelphia, we would be experiencing the kind of hurricane that typically is experienced by Florida and the Gulf Coast States.

As even a Republican Governor said at the time, it seems as if the storm of the century is now happening once every couple of years.

Mr. Chairman, we desperately need this research. We need this funding. Let's restore NOAA funding.

Mr. CULBERSON. I am still trying to identify what precisely you are asking for because I think we are on the same page when it comes to forecasting and prediction. That is what you are asking for.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. I wanted to inquire with regard to how the funding cuts would impact the development of the unmanned atmospheric assessment aircrafts that are critical to foreseeing changes in weather pattern.

Mr. CULBERSON. If I could, we are going to make sure that NOAA has got all the—we have given them a record level of increase this year so they can engage and make sure we have got accurate forecasting. Whether it be through their aircraft or their supercomputers or their modeling, they have got the resources they need to do accurate forecasting for the future.

I am just trying to get a precise idea what it is you are looking for because

I think we have given them all they need for forecasting, and that is what you are asking for.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, very specifically, this amendment would restore the \$30 million of cuts—namely, a 20 percent cut—a disproportionate cut to climate science activities, including unmanned atmospheric assessment aircrafts and including creating raw data streams that can be used by those who predict weather, as well as by farmers and businesses, because you can't separate out weather and climate.

I think, perhaps because of political reasons—I don't know why—there is a disproportionate cut, 20 percent, to the climate science piece of NOAA. Now, that climate science piece of NOAA, just because it has the word "climate" in it, that doesn't mean it is something where they are out there doing things that are political.

What they are doing is they are trying to research the macro effects of climate on weather, on population and patterns, on dangers on ships. If the gentleman would simply allow that discretion within NOAA, undo the 20 percent cut, we fund that within NOAA.

We are not, nor can we, under the budget, seek new money. We are simply taking the \$30 million and putting it back into the climate science program.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POLIS. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you for yielding because I have just checked with my staff, and it appears that the money that we have allocated, a record level of funding for NOAA's forecasting, takes care of that aircraft. The money that we have allocated for NOAA for forecasting takes care of the data stream.

That is why I kept asking what are y'all specifically asking for. We have taken care of it. We are deeply concerned with making sure that NOAA has got the money they need to predict hurricanes, to predict floods, to predict the terrible flooding that has taken place in Houston or the drought that has taken place in California.

I think we are on the same page. I want to be sure the gentleman knows that I will work with him as we move forward in conference. If you can identify something specific that NOAA does not have as a result of our record increase for forecasting, we will help you restore it.

Mr. POLIS. Reclaiming my time, one of the areas we would love to work with you on is Cooperative Institutes funding, the partnerships that NOAA has with our institutions of higher education to better leverage our taxpayer dollars.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$21,000,000) (increased by \$21,000,000)".

Page 14, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$21,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, my amendment takes direct, strong action to address America's weather forecasting shortcomings in order to reduce the loss of life and property from severe storms.

The amendment I offer on behalf of myself; Science, Space, and Technology Committee Vice Chairman FRANK LUCAS; and Environment Subcommittee Chairman JIM BRIDENSTINE directs that the full \$120 million authorized in House-passed H.R. 1561, the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2015, be provided in the NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities appropriation account.

The recent flooding in Texas and tornados in Oklahoma demonstrate the immediate need to quickly implement better weather research and forecasting by fully funding H.R. 1561.

The House unanimously passed that bill just 2 weeks ago. We also unanimously passed it over a year ago in April 2014.

Now, thanks to Chairman CULBERSON's initiative and support, the CJS bill will add the needed resources to transform our antiquated 1980s weather forecasting system into a 21st century weather enterprise in the next few years.

Specifically, this amendment will provide \$5 million more for weather lab research in NOAA, to total the \$80 million authorized. The amendment will also provide \$16 million more for weather research technology transfer in NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, to total \$20 million authorized to implement a labs and Cooperative Institutes research-to-operations program.

This program will improve the understanding of how the public responds to warnings and transfer new technology to the National Weather Service, the American weather industry, and the academic partners.

This new joint Technology Transfer Initiative should include support for the Vortex-SE project and development of advanced national and global cloud resolving models; quantitative observing system assessment tools; atmospheric chemistry needed for weather

prediction; and additional sources of weather data, which includes commercial observing systems.

Once again, I appreciate Chairman CULBERSON's accepting the amendment, which will help save lives and reduce property damage.

As the CJS Appropriations chairman, Mr. CULBERSON has proved himself to be capable, knowledgeable, and committed to the country's best interest.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Texas seek to rise in opposition?

Mr. CULBERSON. Well, I would like to seek some time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment. We have agreed to accept it and work this out.

The Acting CHAIR. Is the gentleman from Pennsylvania opposed?

Mr. FATTAH. I am authentically opposed to the amendment, but I would also make an allowance to yield to my chairman after I make my comments.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1700

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I just want to stress, if I could, that Chairman SMITH has been very supportive and cooperative. We have worked together arm in arm, as has his ranking member, who is also from Texas. This amendment is one that will help the Weather Service do a better job of forecasting. I think it is a good amendment. It is one that we have worked out together. I do urge Members to support it.

I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania yielding to me.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time in opposition, in all good, there is some bad. It is true that this amendment would offer some additional dollars for weather forecasting. But \$16 million of it—the bulk of the \$21 million—would go into technology transfer. Now, I am not opposed to technology transfer, but to take it out of the administrative work at NOAA, I have visited NOAA, and I understand how the operations there work. I have spent a lot of time learning about its operations. And I can tell you that NOAA cannot perform the duties that our Nation needs without the administrative capabilities.

It would be just like coming here to the Hill and expecting the Congress to function without our back office operations. We would not be able to proceed forward. So I think that it is more important for us to have an appropriate allocation so that we can meet these needs than it is to rob the administrative capability of NOAA at a time when we want to place more demands on it.

I think that the amendment—even though moving towards additional help for weather forecasting—the bulk of it is for a technology transfer to the private sector, which I am all for, but it sounds to me like it is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

On the floor, it may be easy to pass an amendment that cuts administrative costs at a government agency, but it may be something that we live to regret. So I stand in opposition to the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), who is the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on this important amendment as well as Chairman CULBERSON. I thank them for working with us on this amendment. I know we have been working very hard to make sure that this is adequately funded and from the right sources.

By fully funding the weather research and technology transfer that was authorized by my bill, H.R. 1561, this appropriations bill now reflects the House's will that NOAA prioritize activities that save lives and property. The funding will go to support critical work to increase the lead times that we receive for tornadoes. A lot of this critical work is being done at the University of Oklahoma. I have heard already that we were looking for more funding for some Cooperative Institutes, and that is what this is.

This is of extreme importance to my State, as I have already lost constituents this year from tornadoes. It is my sincere belief that this appropriations bill now ensures that programs are funded that will eventually move us to a day where no one is killed in a tornado or other severe storm event.

Again, I thank Chairman CULBERSON and Chairman SMITH for their leadership on this issue. We need to adopt this amendment so that we can save lives and property, especially as it relates to my constituents in Oklahoma.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,750,000) (increased by \$1,750,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Massachusetts and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to offer and withdraw my amendment.

I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the chairman and the gentlewoman from Maine.

Since 1972, the National Marine Fisheries Service has utilized trained fishery observers to monitor and assess the health of fish populations along the coast of the United States, providing critical data gathered from commercial vessels that is then used to guide NOAA in determining best practices for conservation and sustainable management.

The fishing industry is a willing and engaged partner in supporting the use of on-vessel observers. However, following a legal challenge, this August, NOAA will run out of funding to continue paying for this mandated program.

I have heard from fishermen from the south coast of Massachusetts, to Cape Cod and the islands, to the south shore who are still struggling from the impacts of diminishing groundfish stocks and worry they will be unable to cover the burden of this cost.

Our region is still reeling from the collapse of the groundfish industry that prompted Federal disaster relief. This is particularly true for some small fishing businesses, where this added burden can be the difference between success and failure as a business.

I am working with my New England and Massachusetts colleagues and NOAA to find an interim solution. And as we look to 2016, I ask that we work to provide adequate funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries with approved catch share management plans that impose observer coverage as a condition for new and expanded fishing opportunities. We also can use this time, I believe, to seek cost-effective technological alternatives, where appropriate.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts and Chairman CULBERSON for chatting with us about this particular issue.

Mr. Chairman, as has been already stated here by my colleague today, there is never a good time to ask our fishermen to take on a cost of this size that we are discussing here. But now is an even worse time than most because it will be asking those who make their living on the Gulf of Maine to pay for onboard monitors when the ground fishery is struggling. I understand the tough position that NOAA is in due to tight budgets, but times are even tougher on the men and women who make their living from groundfish right now.

I hope NOAA can find a way to avoid making them pay for onboard monitors, and whatever the short-term solution is, I think NOAA should look at

ways to conduct monitoring through the use of onboard cameras or other cost-effective electronic technologies.

I hope the chairman will be willing to work with us on this and with NOAA on this issue that affects so many of our hard-working constituents.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this time to thank the chair and ranking member for their willingness to engage in what really is an important issue. I look forward to working together with Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member FATTAH on this issue.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KEATING. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Massachusetts. I recognize how important the Northeast Multispecies Sector Management Program is, and I look forward to working with the gentleman and my colleague from Philadelphia as we move forward through conference.

Mr. FATTAH. We are going to work to get to a more satisfactory resolution.

Mr. KEATING. I thank the ranking member and the chair.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 25, line 3, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this afternoon I am introducing an amendment which would take \$2 million from the Department of Justice's legal activities, salaries and expenses, general legal activities current budget of \$885 million, which has been flat over the last several years, and I would put this \$2 million, instead, to NOAA in their operations, research, and facilities fund—specifically directed to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation and Restoration initiative.

This nationwide initiative includes hundreds of community-based habitat restoration projects that conserve or restore America's precious native species and critical water quality restoration.

This amendment is consistent with the focus of my office to cut govern-

ment spending and motivate our civil servant management teams to achieve higher cost efficiencies throughout the Federal Government and to focus more on critical environmental priorities. In short, less administration expense; more money for water, fish, and atmosphere.

Back in April, I introduced an amendment to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, with Representative PATRICK MURPHY of Florida that would move \$1 million of the Army Corps of Engineers' salary and expense budget to construction projects in the Corps, like the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Herbert Hoover Dike.

This amendment today likewise will help fund critical habitat projects across America, including important work in my district, like the Galt Preserve Restoration Project in St. James City; the Clam Bayou Oyster Reef Restoration and Evaluation of Seagrass and Water Quality on Sanibel Island; the Ding Darling Mangrove Restoration Project on Sanibel Island; Florida's Bay Scallop Metapopulation Stabilization at Pine Island Center; the Mangrove Conservation Initiative in Naples; and the Sam Williams Island Mangrove Restoration and Tarpon Bay Hydrologic Restoration on Marco Island.

Habitat restoration plays an important role in all of our communities and in the lives and welfare of our constituents, especially mine. America's ecosystem is the lifeblood of so many of our American communities, economies, and culture. Let's do everything we can to preserve it.

Fisheries contribute more than \$70 billion to the gross domestic product. Nationwide, commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other industries provide more than \$28 million jobs. Together, coastal watershed counties contribute more than \$4.5 trillion to the GDP. An estimated 53 percent of the current population live in coastal communities. More than 60 percent of our coastal rivers and bays are moderately or severely degraded by nutrient runoff. This was my original reason for getting into politics. We live with this nutrient runoff in my district, in my backyard, every day. It looks bad. It smells bad. It is a pitiful situation.

One added fact: according to NOAA's studies, 17 to 33 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in habitat restoration.

I say today, let's save a little bit of money, save a lot of jobs. It is good economics. It is good policy. It is good conservation. And I urge both sides to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. It is a worthwhile cause and one that we have worked together closely on. So I would urge Members to support the amendment. I look forward to working with you as we move through conference to make sure this is addressed. It is a problem throughout the Gulf Coast and one you are very right to focus Congress' attention on.

I urge Members to support the amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I also rise in support of the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this. This is a big deal in the Gulf. My appreciation is heartfelt for them making this move and showing this symbol of importance. So in the name of all of my constituents, I thank both of them for their leadership and support on this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1715

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment No. 4 at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$21,559,000) (increased by \$21,559,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentlewoman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to increase funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to support its Integrated Ocean Acidification research and fulfill the administration's requested funding level of \$30 million in fiscal year 2016.

The administration's requested funding increase for ocean acidification research reflects a growing consensus in the scientific community and in the coastal and fishing communities that so many of our colleagues and I represent. Ocean acidification is already affecting marine organisms and could irreversibly alter the marine environment and harm our coastal ecosystems.

On the West Coast alone, a \$270 million shellfish industry has experienced disastrous oyster production failures and faced the risk of collapse in recent years because of changes in water condition that have been attributed to ocean acidification. This change in chemistry is caused by carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dissolving into the ocean, and the increased acidity of the ocean is harming basic building blocks for life in the sea. This makes it more difficult for marine organisms to build their skeletons and shells, and it slows the formation of important ecosystem features like coral reefs. These changes can ripple through the food chain, disrupting delicate marine ecosystems and threatening major commercial fisheries.

In the Pacific Northwest, the combination of seasonal upwelling of acidic waters, low alkalinity, and increased anthropogenic carbon dioxide creates some of the most corrosive ocean conditions in the world.

In the last few years, Mr. Chairman, the scientific community has increasingly raised concerns about the ocean. Researchers at Oregon State University have been working with the fishing community in Oregon to determine the effects of acidification. They have been helping the shellfish hatcheries assess the oyster die-off and finding ways to mitigate the harmful upwelling events by monitoring the water entering their facilities. This exemplifies the kind of academic and industry partnerships that are possible when the Federal Government supports academic research.

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program supports extramural research awards that fund studies on acidification in ocean, coastal, and estuary environments. Not only does this program support studies on the effects of acidification, it also allows NOAA to run the observing system that helps monitor areas of increased acidity.

These examples have focused on the effects in Oregon and on the West Coast, but our changing ocean conditions can have far-reaching implications for fisheries throughout the U.S., including the East Coast and Gulf shellfish industries. It also affects the people across the Nation who eat seafood and the stores and restaurants that sell it.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear that we need more information, which is why NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program must be fully funded. Unfortunately, this bill falls short of what the American people and our fishing communities deserve.

I urge support of the amendment, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. I understand the gentlewoman is going to withdraw this amendment.

I agree with the gentlewoman that ocean acidification is a serious problem. That is why you see funding in the bill for it. We just have a limited amount of resources.

I will listen to your other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, can I please inquire about the remaining time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), my colleague.

Mr. FARR. I wish the chairman was accepting this amendment because the faults that we hear are that we have limited resources. We have limited resources, but it is a priority where you give them. This ocean acidification is a serious problem. It is the most serious problem of mankind that we can do something about. When the ocean is starting to melt all the shellfish, the lobster industry, the crab industry, the oyster industry, and the clam industry, all of these industries have a huge effect on not only where they are farming, but where the tourism that is attracted to them.

Mr. Chairman, we can do something about it. We need more money. The President asked for \$30 million in this program. The committee cut it to \$8.4 million, says he is funding it. However, the President asked for the same amount of money for the exploration of the moon of Jupiter called Europa. The committee decided to give them \$110 million more than the President asked for. So don't tell me that there isn't money available. It is just the priority where you give it.

Are you going to save this planet or put all the money into the moon of Jupiter? I think it is more important that we research ocean acidification, and that is why DON YOUNG and I are introducing a bill to tackle this problem more than just this amendment in this moment.

Mr. Chairman, we have to get serious about this. The planet is melting, and the ocean acidification is melting the organisms in the ocean; and when they die, we die.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would point out to my colleagues we have \$8.5 million in the bill for studying ocean acidification. I share your concern. It is a vitally important issue. And the thrust of our work in NASA, as you know from reading the bill, is we have prioritized those missions in the bill that are the top priority of the Planetary Decadal Survey.

We have encouraged NASA to follow the recommendations of the best minds in the scientific community. Every 10 years they get together and prioritize the earth science missions, heliophysics missions, astrophysics missions, those missions aimed at the

outer planets, and the Europa mission has been the single highest priority of the Decadal Survey last decade and this decade. The past administration and this one continue to resist the best recommendations of the best minds in the scientific community. I can't think of a more exciting question that science could answer as to whether or not there is life on another world, and that is going to be answered by this mission to Europa.

I agree strongly that we need to research ocean acidification, and that is why there is \$8.5 million in the bill for it.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Even though I am in a totally opposite position on the matter than you.

Mr. CULBERSON. I am happy to engage in a colloquy with my friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. We have an Earth in which the majority of it is covered by oceans. As a nation, we have more responsibility territorially for the world's oceans than any other nation. You agree that this is a major issue. It is funded at a level that we think should be increased. I hope that the chairman will work with us as we go forward to see whether we can improve and make even more robust our stewardship, which is our responsibility, as I would understand it. Even though there are other areas in the bill where we have made important sacrifices, maybe this is an area where we can do more.

Mr. CULBERSON. It is one in which I look forward to working with you on to do more to research ocean acidification. That is why you see in the bill a major investment in oceanographic mapping and research, the economic zone of the United States which is unmapped and uncharted and loaded with rare earths and great mineral wealth that Dr. Bob Ballard and his team and other scientists are exploring, and we are investing there.

I look forward to working with you in conference.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, we will work together on this. This is a very important area of interest for me, and I thank the gentlewoman for offering her amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, I do plan to withdraw this amendment. I do want to emphasize the seriousness of this issue in addressing it. I do contend that the amount in this bill is inadequate. So I do look forward to working with the committee chairman, the ranking member, and the committee going forward to address this very important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, \$1,960,034,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, except that funds provided for construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the \$1,973,034,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, \$1,960,034,000 is appropriated from the general fund and \$13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than \$5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That, within the amounts appropriated, \$1,302,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to satellite procurement, acquisition and construction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 15, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$9,000,000) (increased by \$9,000,00)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Oklahoma and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment designates \$9 million within NOAA's Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction account for the purposes of funding a pilot program for space-based commercial weather data as authorized by H.R. 1561, the House-passed Lucas-Bridenstine Weather Research and Forecasting Act of 2015.

Although I intend to withdraw my amendment, I intend to use this time to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Chairman, the commercial satellite industry has revolutionized ev-

eryday life. From telecommunications to imaging to navigation, we reap the benefits of private sector innovation. I truly believe we have that opportunity when it comes to weather satellites as well. By introducing newer, more innovative, more resilient and additional forms of data into our numerical weather models, we can improve our ability to forecast weather and save the lives of our constituents.

By providing NOAA with the funds to purchase commercial data, it sends a clear signal to the burgeoning, nascent weather satellite industry: NOAA is interested in commercial data from the private sector. This pilot program has the potential to shift paradigms within our weather enterprise and serve as the first step toward moving to a day where the government does not have a monopoly on weather satellites.

NOAA operates huge, monolithic, billion-dollar satellite programs that have experienced cost overruns and launch delays. These programs are important to ensuring we have robust weather data, but we need a mitigation strategy when problems arise, a role that commercial sources can play. In addition, they can augment our programs of record, and for a fraction of the cost. In fact, to fully fund this program, NOAA would only need to find the equivalent of one dime out of a \$20 bill.

Mr. Chairman, I believe, in the long run, purchasing data from the private sector will lead to lower costs for the taxpayers, as well as better data, more data, and more innovation. However, I understand the constraints that the gentleman from Texas is under when crafting this appropriations bill, and I appreciate his willingness to work with me on this issue. The question I pose to him is: Does the chairman intend to have NOAA provide \$9 million from within its Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction appropriation for NESDIS Systems Acquisition to carry out this pilot program in fiscal year 2016 as is authorized in H.R. 1561?

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I agree completely with the gentleman that NOAA should work with the private sector when data is available. It is cost effective and can save the taxpayers money, and, in fact, that is why we included a statement on this in the committee report. I look forward to working with you as we move forward in conference to ensure that this worthwhile goal is achieved.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I thank the chairman. I look forward to working together with you and with NOAA to ensure that congressional intent is clear and to make this critically important pilot program a reality. I appreciate your leadership and assistance on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment No. 5 at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, lines 16, 19, and 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$380,000,000)".

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentlewoman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to ensure the continuity of NOAA's polar satellite program by restoring its funding. There are many important priorities in this bill, but the technical nature of this satellite program and its value to our Nation are being overlooked.

The importance of these satellites and the need to maintain the information they collect is not daily news, but the accurate, timely data the satellites provide to our weather forecasters is crucial. This data is needed not only in severe weather scenarios, but also for the wide-ranging accessibility to everyone in our Nation, from those who hear a weather forecast on the local news to the millions across the Nation who open up an app on their phones.

Weather is important. It affects everything from our commute to the food on our table. In fact, a 2009 study from the American Meteorological Society stated that U.S. weather forecasts generate \$31.5 billion in benefits for \$5.1 billion in cost.

□ 1730

Unfortunately, past trouble and mismanagement in the polar satellite program means that a gap in coverage within the next decade is possible, with the worst-case scenario being a gap lasting more than 5 years. Any loss of coverage from the polar satellites would have serious consequences on the accuracy and timeliness of our weather forecasts, warnings, and the capabilities of the National Weather Service.

Thankfully, NOAA and NASA have worked very hard to get the polar satellite program back on track. Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today has the potential to undermine that progress. The President's fiscal year 2016 budget request included \$380 million for a polar follow-on program. This important program will minimize the risk of a gap in polar weather data and address a recommendation from various independent groups, including the Government Accountability Office,

regarding the need to develop a robust satellite program, a program that can withstand a launch failure.

By not funding the polar follow-on program in 2016, the continuity for the polar weather mission is put at risk and the Nation will be exposed to the vulnerabilities and impacts of a potential gap.

Mr. Chairman, working families in my district and across the country are balancing enough already. They need to rely on accurate and timely forecasts, not worry about a gap or where the weather data comes from. We need this program to continue so we do not lose the gains we have made. Americans deserve to have access to the best available scientific data.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the funding levels in this bill are stretched so thin that it is impossible for me to find more than \$300 million to provide an offset. So I do ask the subcommittee chairman and ranking member to work with me on ways that we can find to preserve and maintain this essential program.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, \$65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the Federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95-372, not to exceed \$350,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2016, obligations of direct loans may not exceed \$24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed \$100,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed \$4,500 for official reception and representation, \$50,000,000.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, \$3,989,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,082,000 shall be for security systems and \$2,907,000 shall be for blast-resistant windows.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$32,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2016: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is \$11,322,125,000 and the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is \$10,828,059,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building,

Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to \$200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a customer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. The Secretary of Commerce may waive the requirement for bonds under 40 U.S.C. 3131 with respect to contracts for the construction, alteration, or repair of vessels, regardless of the terms of the contracts as to payment or title, when the contract is made under the Coast and Geodetic Survey Act of 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.).

SEC. 110. In fiscal year 2016, the National Institute of Standards and Technology may use unobligated balances from the “National Institute of Standards and Technology—Industrial Technology Services” account for the purposes of and subject to the limitations in section 34(e)(2) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(e)(2)).

This title may be cited as the “Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2016”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the administration of the Department of Justice, \$105,000,000, of which not to exceed \$4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 6, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(decreased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 72, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, many small businesses around the country are struggling, struggling to compete against low-priced foreign imports benefiting from unfair trade practices. They are constantly intimidated by the cost of the legal challenges that they face.

The intent of this amendment is simple. It transfers \$2 million to the International Trade Commission to provide legal and technical assistance to small businesses seeking a remedy.

I offered this amendment last year to the bill and it was approved.

Time and time again small companies are losing business against unfair, low-cost imports which flood our country. Something needs to be done. Small businesses need help.

They don't have access to the same legal resources as larger companies. They can't afford the cost to file a claim against large state-supported industries like we see coming from China. These small businesses in America deserve to be treated better.

In West Virginia, Mr. Chairman, we have one particular company which manufactures glass, lead-free marbles. The company has less than 50 employees. They, among other firms like that, have asked our office a simple question: When an average cost to file an antidumping claim is \$1 million or more, how can small manufacturers afford access to justice?

The Federal Government provides pro bono attorneys in criminal cases for those who can't afford representation. Mr. Chairman, why not offer something similar to our small businesses across America who are facing unfair competition?

A recent contract was for 300 million marbles per year. Currently, this company manufactures 1 million per day. This contract would have guaranteed 300 days of manufacturing production for hard-working West Virginians.

The Chinese company undercut their bid. Unfortunately, we have seen this story far too often where the Chinese currency manipulation and state subsidies have cut our tin, steel, and hot-rolled steel industries, among others.

The ITC must have the tools to protect our small businesses, and this amendment is a step in the right direction.

Let's be clear, Mr. Chairman: Do we want to keep talking about jobs, or do we want to offer a solution? Supporting this amendment will be an immense help for small business employers who are trying to fight back against unfair trade.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment. We are willing to accept the amendment, and I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I join you in supporting the amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 6, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(decreased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 8, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentlewoman from New Mexico and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, trust between law enforcement and the public that they are sworn to protect is not just important but essential to safe, collaborative, and constitutional community policing. Trust promotes healthy relationships and interactions that are in the best interest of the both the public and the police.

Unfortunately, the public's trust in law enforcement has eroded in many communities across the country, including my own. The Federal Government needs to make targeted investments to ensure that law enforcement has the tools to rebuild and strengthen that trust, which is the cornerstone of successful policing.

That is why I am so proud to introduce this bipartisan amendment, along with my colleagues Congressman MURPHY and Congressman BLUMENAUER, to add \$2 million to the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act programs. These programs provide a broad range of services, including crisis intervention training for State and local law enforcement agencies to identify and improve responses to people with mental illnesses and substance abuse issues. Crisis intervention training can help prevent injuries to officers, deescalate potentially dangerous situations, and alleviate harm to the person in crisis.

Interactions between the mentally ill and law enforcement too often end in tragedy. Since the beginning of the year, 385 people have been shot and killed by police, and about a quarter of these individuals have been identified as mentally ill. The more training we can provide law enforcement to improve their skills to interact with the public, the more likely crises will be resolved peacefully. And the more non-violent peaceful interactions police have with the public, the more we can strengthen trust between police and the public that they are sworn to protect.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not supposed to the gentleman's amendment because it is a good amendment and I support it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the Chairman, and I also thank Representative GRISHAM for this thoughtful amendment we are working on together, which will put \$2 million towards crisis intervention training for State and local law enforcement and also work towards substance abuse treatment and mental health courts.

In the 1950s, this country had 550,000 psychiatric hospital beds for the population of 150 million. Now, with a population twice that size, we only have 40,000 psychiatric hospital beds.

So what happened? Some people got better. But sadly, what we ended up with is huge increases in homelessness and visits to emergency rooms. Last year in this country there were 40,000 suicides and 1 million suicide attempts.

With this critical bed shortage we have many people who end up committing crimes. Of the 2.4 million incarcerated Americans, about half of them, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, are estimated to have a mental health condition. That is 64 percent in our county and local jails, 56 percent in State, and 45 percent of Federal prisoners. By comparison, there are only 35,000 patients with severe mental illness in State psychiatric hospitals. And, according to a report from April 2014, the number of mentally ill persons in prison is ten times higher than that in psychiatric hospitals.

The largest jails in the country—Cook County in Illinois, Los Angeles, and New York—have 11,000 prisoners combined with serious mental illness. Now, that is over twice as large as the three largest State-run mental hospitals.

Mentally ill inmates are twice as likely to be charged with rule violations when incarcerated and actually

remain in prison four times longer than a non-mentally ill person with the same original crime. And what happens then? Solitary confinement, tasered. Then when they are discharged, they repeat the cycle in the revolving door.

What we need to make sure we are doing is to deal with public safety, make sure there is restitution to the community for what has happened, but the key is to provide help for those with serious mental illness.

It is not right for our country to continue to say things like, It is not illegal to be crazy. Our courts and systems that do not understand mental illness continue to say that, but to them I say it isn't just an issue of someone has a right to be mentally ill; they have a right to be well.

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What we need to do is to stop this revolving door of having someone who is hallucinating and delusional and waiting until he commits a crime or is a threat to public safety, instead of intervening earlier.

We need mental health courts; we need ways a policeman can intervene early to help persons, and we need evidence-based initiatives to fix our broken mental health system in America. I know that, in our own court in Allegheny County, they saw a nearly 38 percent reduction in recidivism when they used mental health courts.

This is compassion, and this is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy and her leadership on this, and I appreciate my good friend from Pennsylvania in his eloquence and his tireless championship in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that we have a broken system that does not meet the needs of people with mental illness, and it places an undue burden on law enforcement. His words about people having a right to be well really resonates with me because we have seen in all of our communities situations that escalate because they don't have the proper response—we don't have the proper training; we don't have the proper resources—where people get worse.

It is not just that it costs more money; it is the pain to the individuals, to their families, and, ultimately, since virtually all of these people are released but are released in a more damaged situation, they are worse. They are a greater risk to themselves and society, and the cycle continues.

There is no doubt in my mind that, if we were able to properly account for the costs and consequences of the current nonsystem that there would be far more resources saved in treating them humanely and effectively, giving the police and the community the re-

sources they need that will more than pay for itself. This is an important step for the Federal Government to be a better partner.

I appreciate the gentlewoman's leadership. I appreciate my friend Mr. MURPHY from Pennsylvania, and I am looking forward to working with him on other items.

I respectfully request that our colleagues not just support this, but take it to heart because we can make a difference on so many different levels.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I would encourage Members to support it if you would be willing to request a recorded vote on this.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. On behalf of our country, I attended the Healthy brain: healthy Europe conference in Ireland. The estimate in these 28 EU countries was that some 36 percent of the population had some type of mental health challenge, and they deal with it much more openly and without the stigma that sometimes we attach here in our country to mental health challenges.

I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his extraordinary leadership on this issue, and I thank the gentlewoman for offering this.

We will support this amendment and ask for a recorded vote.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I encourage Members to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleagues for working so diligently on this very important improvement to public safety and police training, and I encourage all Members to vote in favor of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2048. An act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the

production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 6, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$2,209,500)".

Page 24, line 14, insert after the first dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$1,709,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 287, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to bolster funds for the Department of Justice inspector general in order to meet the fiscal year 2016 budget request.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I am a firm believer in the proper oversight of the Federal Government. The more sunlight on Federal activity, the more honest and efficient it will be.

I am also a strong proponent of our inspector general community. Since the Inspector General Act was passed into law, the IG community has saved taxpayers billions of dollars and has uncovered countless examples of wrongdoing in the Federal Government.

It seems only fitting that the inspector general's office receive the budget requested resources, particularly at the expense of the office it will likely need to investigate first.

In the committee report, the committee noted, "The DOJ OIG has had significant investigative and audit workload." In fact, we have seen numerous scandals and coverups from within this agency and at the recommendation of the previous Attorney General.

I applaud the committee for including language in this bill to permanently prohibit funds for Fast and Furious-like programs and for the many other reforms contained in this legislation, but I do believe more needs to be done to ensure additional transparency and accountability within the DOJ.

Let's give the DOJ OIG the resources it needs to investigate this agency and to ensure the Justice Department adheres to the law.

I reserve the balance of my time.